やじろべえ 1

YAMAKAWA AIJI

山川あいじ

別冊マーガレット

MARGARET COMICS

やじろべえ 1

山川あいじ

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幼い頃に母親を亡くした葉瑠。
それからはずっと義理の父親である誠司と
ふたり暮らしを続けてきた。
そんなある日、葉瑠は誠司の祖父のお葬式に立ち会うことになる。
さらに、いままで暮らしてきたアパートが取り壊されることになって…？
義理の父娘がお届けする、ほっこり同居物語。

［収録作品］やじろべえ①

This comic first started going on sale during my birth month, and right now I'm really having fun drawing it. I'm really grateful to all the encounters, things, and happenings that gave me this feeling.

Yamakawa Aiji

Yamaka Aiji Comics

Chou-chou ni Naru
Futari-bocchi
Namakemono to Haru
Animaniaru
Renren
Chocolate Underground
Tomodachi no Hanashi
Balancing Toy 1

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1

山川あいじ

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 — 3

Chapter 2 — 27

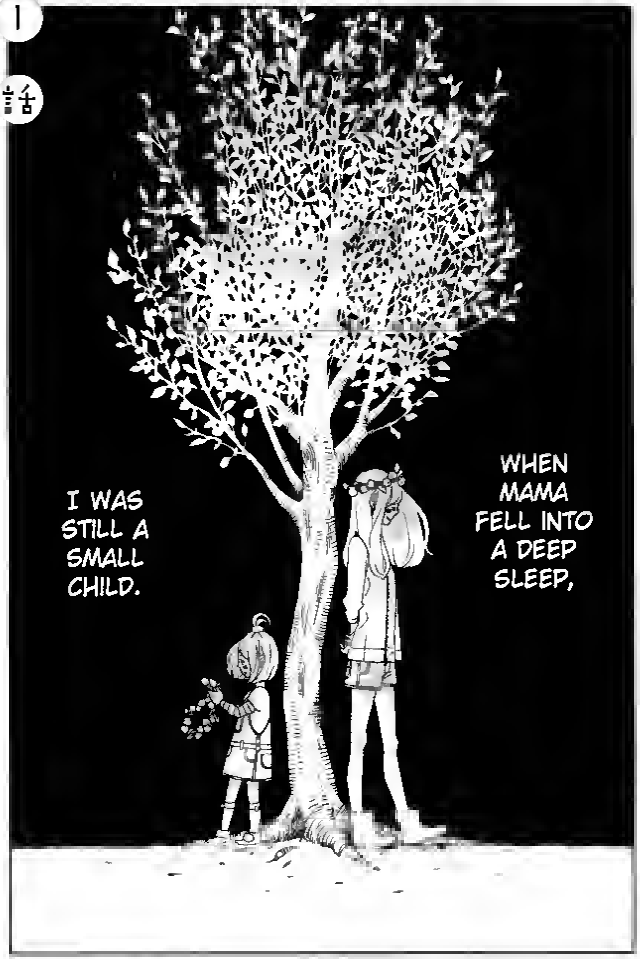
Chapter 3 — 51

Chapter 4 — 89

Chapter 5 — 143

Extra — 174

CHAPTER 1



THAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO.
市川
Sign reads: Ichikawa

I'LL... MISS HIM.
SEIJI, WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME WITH US?
WE'VE KEPT YOUR ROOM...
OBVIOUSLY THE BOY CAN'T COME BACK
THAT'S WHY I TOLD HIM
NOT TO BE WITH THAT CHILD-TOTING MEROU
Don't talk like that! Grandpa would never say anything like that to Seiji!
There's no point in bringing up the past right now.

HARU,
COME HERE.
!
SEIJI...
SHE SAID I WAS A "MEROU'S" DAUGHTER.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
MAY-
ROW-
-OOH.
OOH.
OOH.
ウンウ!

SHE'S JUST LONELY NOW THAT GRANDPA'S PASSED AWAY.
MM
WE SINCERELY GRIEVE WITH YOU ON THIS SAD OCCASION

[Vulgar]
① Young woman Girl
② Derogatory term used when speaking abusively of a woman
I BET THIS IS IT... I KNEW SHE WAS INSULTING US!
UGH!

From Shueisha Japanese Language Dictionary

HARU, I'M GOING TO SPREAD OUT THE FUTONS.
SEIJI, YOU'RE AN ONLY CHILD, RIGHT?
YEAH, I AM.
COME TO THINK OF IT, GRANNY'S WAS MY ONLY PLAYMATE.
NO WONDER THEY'RE WORRIED
SHE LEFT ME BEHIND WITH SEIJI,
SO THAT'S WHY HIS FAMILY HATES HER.

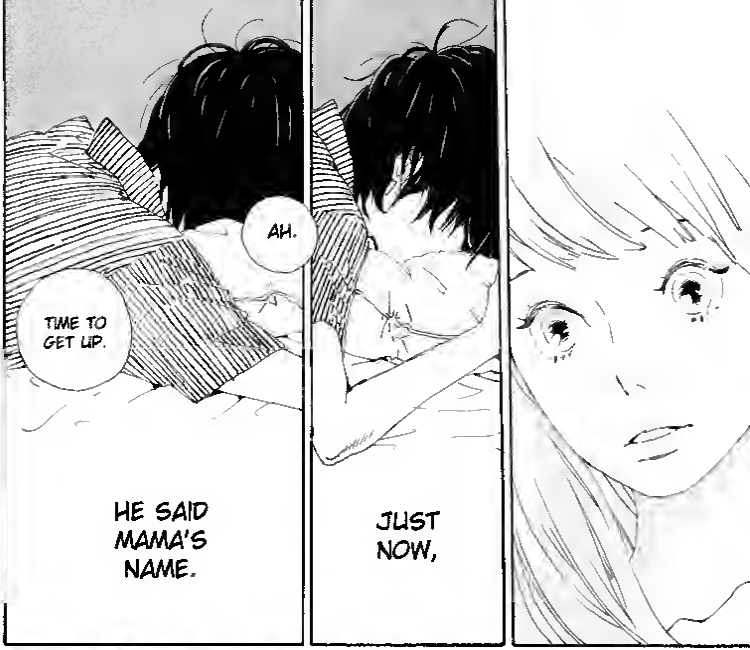
I FEEL SO MUKATSUKU...*
*irritated
YES, I HAVE MUKA
MU
KA?
DON'T YOU FEEL THAT WAY TOO, SEIJI?
OOM-PH!
OOM-PH!
ZZZ
THAT'S ABOUT MOM!
VERY PRECIOUS
SOMETHING THAT IS VALUED SO HIGHLY IT CANNOT BE PRICED
MUKA
HE LOVED GOSSIP
HE MIGHT EVEN BE LISTENING IN RIGHT HERE
HUH?
.....
HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS A NICE MAN
WHAT WAS YOUR GRANDPA LIKE?
I GET SCARED EASILY
THEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP
Stop that. Wh- if it's really on hear me?
GRAMPS WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT
SORRY, I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM, SO I DON'T REALLY FEEL SAD.
BUT AT LEAST HE NEVER INSULTED YOU.

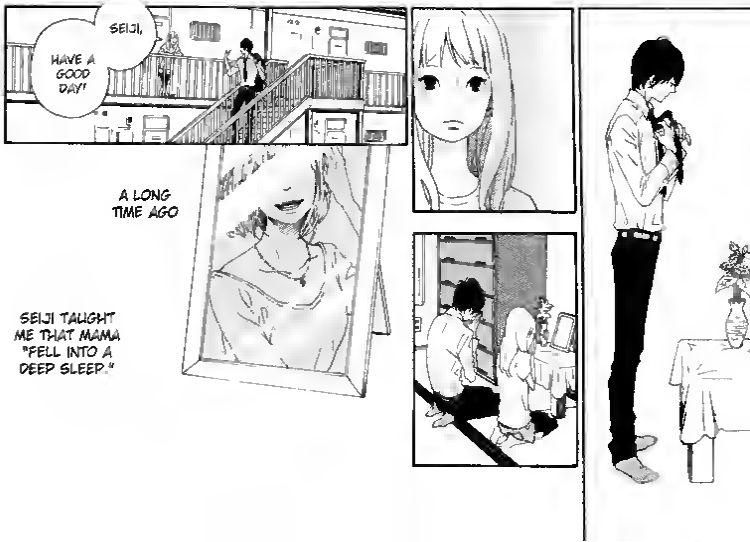
HURRY UP!
HARU!
OH, YEAH
NEED TO COUNT SHEEP? I'LL HELP OUT.
WE'LL TAKE TURNS
IT'LL BE OVER WHEN I CAN'T HEAR YOUR VOICE ANYMORE
THEN, ME FIRST
hic
ONE SHEEP
TWO SHEEP
SEIJI, YOU'D BETTER STAY AWAKE
THREE SHEEP
SURE, SURE FOUR SHEEP
YOU'D BETTER! FIVE SHEEP
6,875 SHEEP...
SIX THOU-SAND...
EIGHT HUN-DRED...
SEVENTY-SIX SHEEP...
SH-
NGH
-EEP
6,877 SHEEP

Beep
Beep
Beep
YES! I BEAT HIM! I BEAT SEIJI FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE!
Bip
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep
Beep

HE GETS SO NERVOUS IF I GET A LITTLE HYPER.
AHH
IT'S NICE AND COOL IN THE MORNING
YOU TREAT ME TOO MUCH LIKE A CHILD...
SEIJI.
...

……
HM?
……
…Mi…


TIME TO GET UP.
AH.
HE SAID MAMA'S NAME.
JUST NOW,


SEIJI, HAVE A GOOD DAY!
A LONG TIME AGO
SEIJI TAUGHT ME THAT MAMA "FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP."

I UNDERSTOOD THAT IT MEANT SHE WAS GONE.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS FIVE,
AND MADE IT SO THAT HE HAD TO TELL ME THE ANSWER
I MUST HAVE UNDER-STOOD THE MEANING
I THOUGHT HARD ABOUT IT ON MY OWN.
BUT THAT WAS MOST LIKELY BECAUSE

"Did Mama die?"

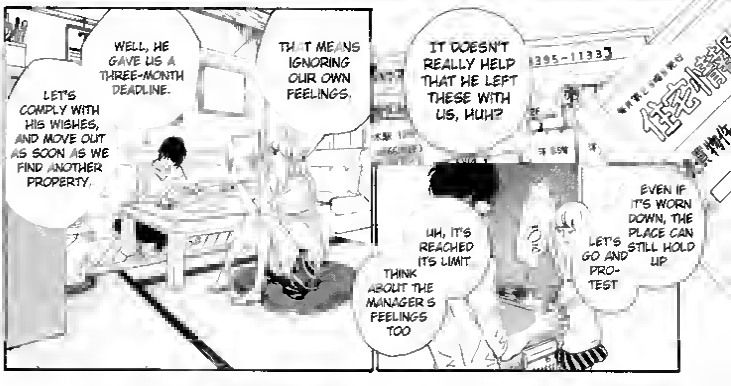
I HAVE A FEELING THAT I ASKED SEIJI THAT.
DID HE REACT?
AND THEN HOW

"Haru."

SO
I'M REALLY SORRY
IT'S OK WE WERE PLANNING TO LEAVE SOMEDAY ANYWAY
HM?
HUH?
YEAH, THIS PLACE IS DETERIORATING LIKE CRAZY
YOU SEE? IT'S OLD, RIGHT? SOMETHING DANGEROUS MIGHT HAPPEN
BUT YOU'VE LIVED HERE FOR SO LONG, AFTER ALL
THEY'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO REBUILD THE PLACE,
I'M REALLY SORRY TO HAVE TO DO THIS...

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
SORRY TO SPRING ONE UP ON YOU,
BUT CAN YOU MOVE OUT IN THREE MONTHS?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONES LIVING HERE,
SO I CAME TO ASK IF YOU COULD DO ME THIS FAVOR.
SEIJI.

SO WHAT IF I DID?
HEARD THAT?
OK
PLEASE COOPERATE.


LET'S COMPLY WITH HIS WISHES, AND MOVE OUT AS SOON AS WE FIND ANOTHER PROPERTY.
WELL, HE GAVE US A THREE-MONTH DEADLINE.
THAT MEANS IGNORING OUR OWN FEELINGS.
IT DOESN'T REALLY HELP THAT HE LEFT THESE WITH US, HUH?
UH, IT'S REACHED ITS LIMIT.
THINK ABOUT THE MANAGER'S FEELINGS TOO
LET'S GO AND PROTEST
EVEN IF IT'S WORN DOWN, THE PLACE CAN STILL HOLD UP.

SO HE'S NOT GOING TO SUGGEST WE GO BACK TO HIS OLD HOME?
Sw
oosh
CHECK MINE OUT
OH?
Flop...
AWW
AH.
AH.

TAKE OFF.
WE MADE A BIG MESS,
BUT I'M TOO LAZY TO CLEAN IT UP.
LET'S DO ROCK-PAPERS-SCISSORS, LOSER HAS TO CLEAN.
NO WAY.
WHY NOT?

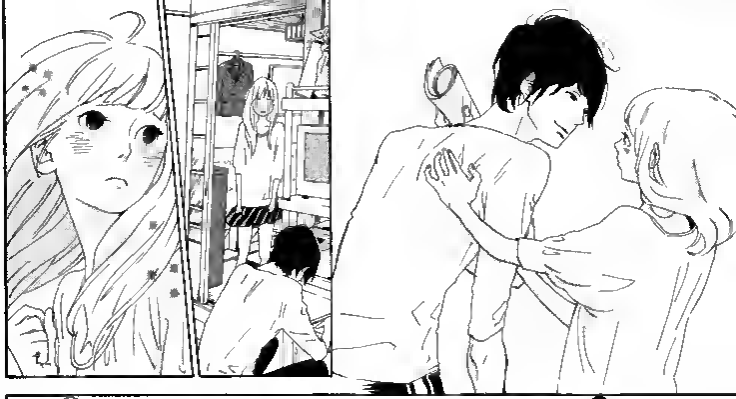
I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO LOSE.
I SEE.
A LONG TIME AGO,
I USED TO FLY LOTS OF PAPER AIRPLANES WITH MY GRANDPA...
I SHOULD HAVE
WISH THAT HE COULD HAVE SPENT MORE TIME WITH MAMA?
GONE TO VISIT HIM
MORE OFTEN
DOES SEIJI...

WH-
WHAT IS IT?

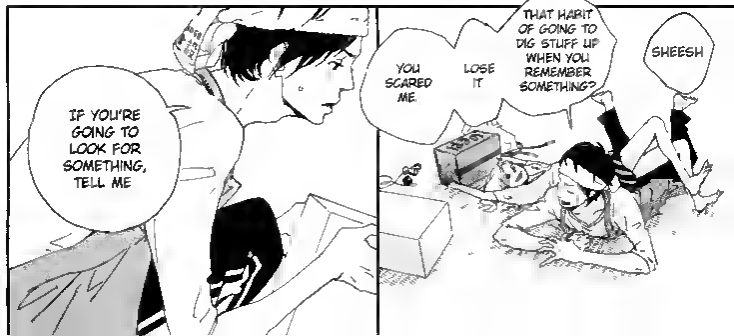
AH.
SEE?
I LOST.

IT'S SAD... TO LOSE EVERY-THING.

HEY.
HUH?
WAS MAMA SOMEONE PEOPLE LOOKED DOWN ON?
THAT'S WHAT YOUR GRANDMA SAID.
SEIJI
HMM
I'M NOT THAT STUPID!
YEAH, SHE DID!
DID SHE REALLY?
EVEN AFTER MEETING ME, YOU WERE STILL THE PERSON SHE THOUGHT ABOUT THE MOST.



Ktunk
THUD
RUSTLE
Rustle
SLAM
CLATTER
SLIDE
AHH!
WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?
HEY.


IF YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING, TELL ME
YOU SCARED ME
LOSE IT
THAT HABIT OF GOING TO DIG STUFF UP WHEN YOU REMEMBER SOMETHING?
SHEESH

OH, THAT?
LOOK.
WHENEVER I LOOK AT YOU,
I FEEL HER PRESCENCE.
BECAUSE SEIJI, SHE'S REFLECTED IN YOUR EYES, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHY
I KNOW THAT IT'S TRUE.

MAMA WAS A HAPPY WOMAN.
"Nice to meet you, Haru-chan."

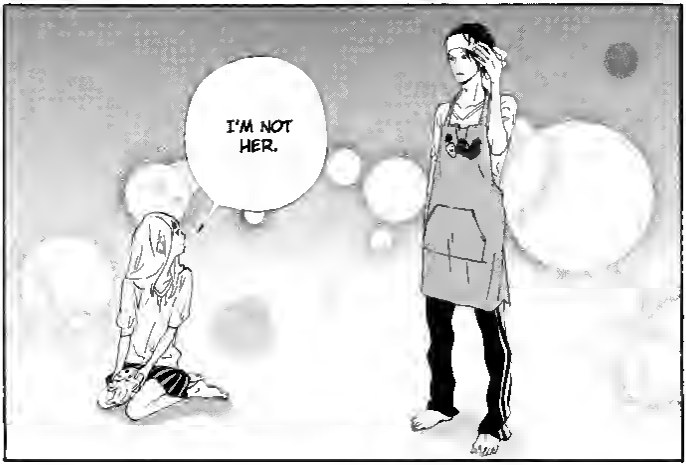
I...

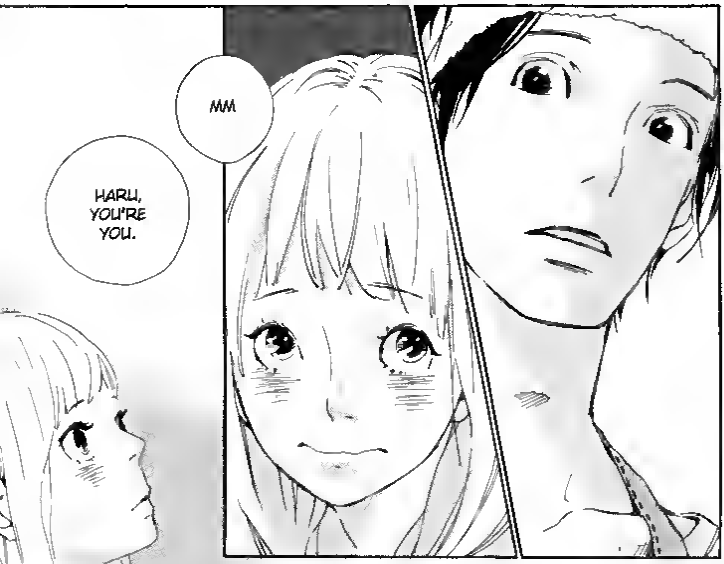
DON'T REALLY REMEMBER STUFF FROM THE PAST.

I'M NOT EVEN SURE

HOW I FELT WHEN SAD THINGS HAPPENED

I CAN'T JUST CONJURE UP MEMORIES AND CRY ABOUT IT.

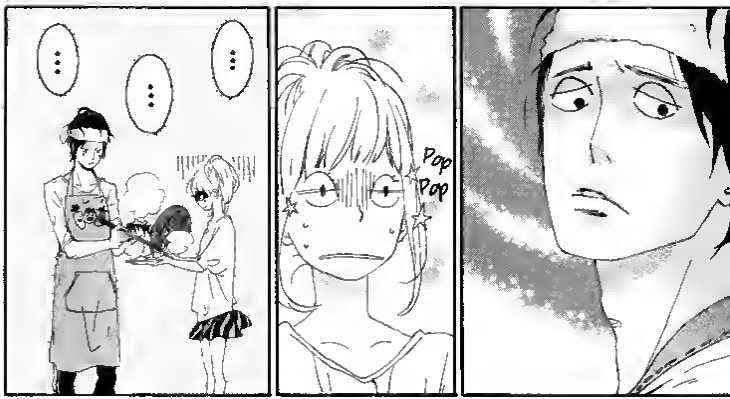

I'M NOT HER.

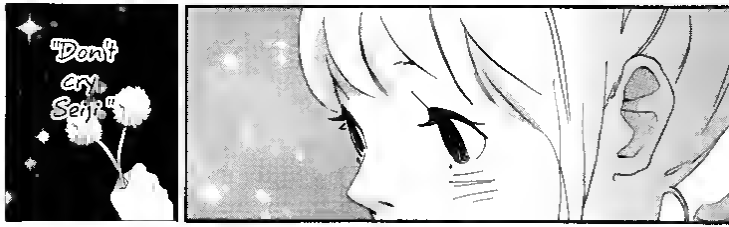

MM
HARU, YOU'RE YOU.

SEIJI
YOU. ..DO RESEMBLE HER A LITTLE.

THESE TEN YEARS FOR SEIJI ARE DIFFERENT THAN WHAT THEY ARE FOR ME.

CAN I STAY WITH YOU?


Pop Pop


"Don't cry, Seiji."

THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT WAS...
MY FIRST TIME SEEING SEIJI CRY...
BACK THEN,
I COULDN'T EMBRACE HIM NO MATTER HOW FAR I STRETCHED OUT MY ARMS.

SO, I HELD ON TIGHT IN MY HEART.

WHERE'S SEIJI?
I WANT TO BE WITH SEIJI.
MOTHER, JUST KEEP QUIET!
THANK YOU, HARU-CHAN
...
THIS IS FROM MY MOTHER.

MY APOLO-GIES
THE WIND BLOWS, BUT THE MOUNTAIN DOESN'T MOVE.
YOU'RE ONE DIFFICULT CHILD.

I'M GOING TO REST.
MAMA.
'DIFFICULT CHILD'
HEHE
HARU-CHAN, COME AGAIN, OK?
DID YOU HEAR THAT?

HARU!
HURRY UP!
WE'RE GOING TO WALK STRAIGHT THERE?
MM
EH?
GLAD THE WEATHER'S NICE OUT
WE'LL GET A GOOD PRE-VIEW
LOOKS LIKE THE REAL ESTATE FOLKS HAVE ALREADY MADE IT THERE
IT'S NOT TOO FAR AWAY.
I can hear the ice clinking
CLINK
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU GET THIRSTY
I BROUGHT A WATER BOTTLE
I SEE
OH...
CLINK
CLINK

THAT'S NOT SAFE
HEY, LOOK AT ME!
I'M DOING THE CAT-WALK.
HUH?
I'M ALWAYS WALKING BEHIND SEIJI.
FWOOSH
wobble
SWOOSH

WALK AHEAD OF ME, HARU.
HUH?
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO

DON'T WORRY, IT'S OK
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU
AND I'LL BE WATCHING, TOO.
JUST KEEP ON GOING STRAIGHT.

I WAS TOLD THAT THE NAME HARU ORIGINATED BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT THE LEAVES IN SUMMER WERE BEAUTIFUL.

"THAT'S WHAT YOUR MAMA SAID."

I'M SUPER EXCITED.
WHICH WAY?
TO THE RIGHT.
AND THEN MAKE A LEFT.
SEIJI TAUGHT ME THAT.

WHEN MAMA FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP,
I WAS STILL A SMALL CHILD.
BUT THAT CHILD TURNED FIFTEEN IN THE SUMMER.
BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE TREES,
SHE SAID, "LET'S MEET AGAIN NEXT YEAR."

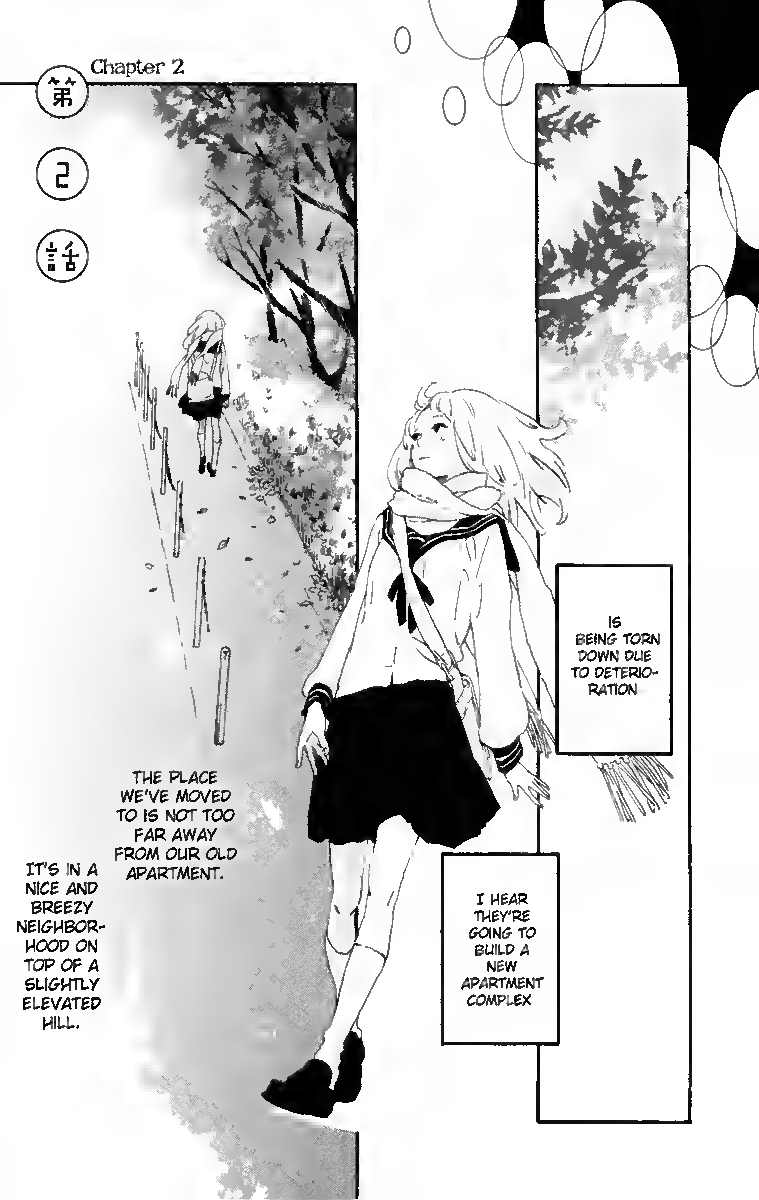
BUCK-
ETS.
POTS.
!!
OH,
YEAH
I DON T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT THE
ROOF
LEAKING
ANY-
MORE
IT'S BEEN
TWO MONTHS
SINCE WE'VE
MOVED
GET
USED
TO IT
ALREADY!
EVERY-
THING
WILL BE
WET.
PL
OP
THE
HOUSE
WILL BE
SOPPING
WET.

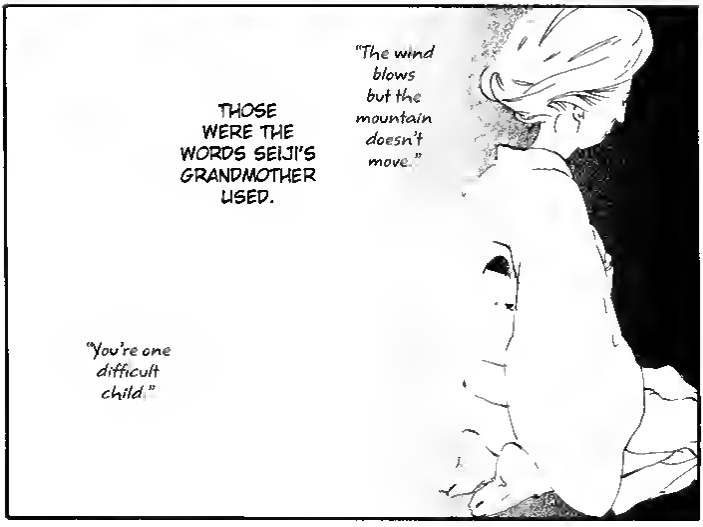
WHAAAAAAAT?!
Wheeze
Haa
*convenience store
PHEW... IT STARTED POURING ALL OF A SUDDEN.
I TRIED TAKING SHELTER AT THE KOMBINI'S.*
BUT THE MUDDY WATER COMPLETELY SOAKED THROUGH THE BACK OF MY SHIRT.
HAA
HAA
SHEESH! You should have known!
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO AVOID IT BY RUNNING HOME
HAHA... HELP ME CHANGE
YOU'RE THE ONE ALWAYS NAGGING AT ME WHENEVER I FORGET MY RAIN GEAR.
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU INCLUDE YOURSELF IN THE PICTURE?

HARU, I'M CATCHING A CHILL...
GET MY MEDS FROM THE MEDICINE BOX.
SURE, SURE.
W-WHAT? I'M AT 38 DEGREES, CELCIUS?
NOW I'M TRULY BROKEN DOWN.
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, SEIJI!
AT OUR NEW (BUT SECOND-HAND) HOME, SEIJI CAUGHT A HIGH FEVER FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE WE MOVED.
COULD THIS BE A HINT OF MORE DIFFICULTIES
LYING AHEAD?

A LONG TIME AGO,
WHEN SEIJI WAS SICK AND LAID UP IN BED,
I WENT TO ASK THE AUNTIE NEXT DOOR FOR HELP
"All us kids can do"
"is be aware."
"Don't try to be such a goody-goody, Haru-chan"
I COULD ONLY STAND BY AND WATCH SILENTLY

THE APARTMENT THAT I'VE LIVED COMFORTABLY IN FOR SO LONG...


IS BEING TORN DOWN DUE TO DETERIO-RATION
I HEAR THEY'RE GOING TO BUILD A NEW APARTMENT COMPLEX
THE PLACE WE'VE MOVED TO IS NOT TOO FAR AWAY FROM OUR OLD APARTMENT.
IT'S IN A NICE AND BREEZY NEIGHBOR-HOOD ON TOP OF A SLIGHTLY ELEVATED HILL.


"The wind blows but the mountain doesn't move."
THOSE WERE THE WORDS SEIJI'S GRANDMOTHER USED.
"You're one difficult child."

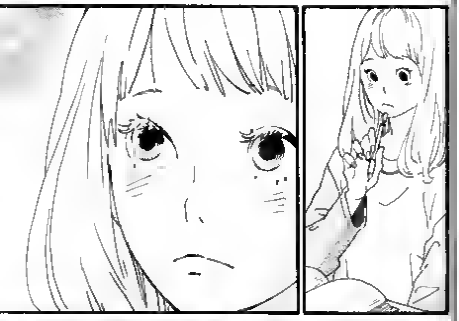
SHE WAS PROBABLY SAYING THAT ABOUT SEIJI TOO
IT MAY SEEM LIKE SHE'S JUST A DISTANT ONLOOKER,
BUT IF THAT IMPLIES THAT SHE'S WATCHING OVER US,
THEN I DO BELIEVE THAT WE'RE FAMILY AFTER ALL.

H-
HARU! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE? AHH!
AHH?
I JUST GOT HOME...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AND YOUR FEVER?
AND YOUR COLD? YOU PROMISED ME TO STAY IN BED UNTIL I GOT BACK!
SNATCH
AHH, I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER.
ALTHOUGH IT DID KEEP ME IN BED FOR TWO DAYS,
IT WAS JUST A LOW GRADE FEVER.
I MUST HAVE TIRED OUT FROM OVER-WORKING MYSELF.
SEIJI FEELS GOOD
DON'T SPEAK IN THIRD PERSON.

SEE?
I SHOULD TRY OUT FOR JOHNNY & ASSOCIATES *
WOW, SEIJI!
Do that again!
*boy band talent agency
WHOO SH
EH?
HUH?
WOAH. THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER DONE A BACK-FLIP!
WHAT?
WAIT HOW DID I DO IT?
UM... LIKE THIS? HUP!
THUD
OOMPH! CAN'T DO IT!
LIKE THIS? OOPH!
NOPE.
THUD
DON'T EVEN TRY TO DO IT AGAIN,
OLD MAN.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

OH, SEIJI! YOU'RE ALWAYS TRYING YOUR BEST TO CHEER ME UP, AREN'T YOU?
HARUHAN YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP OVER AT AUNTIE'S HOUSE TODAY.
SEIJI TOO?
YOU MIGHT CATCH HIS COLD
BUT SEIJI WILL BE ALL BY HIMSELF
YOU'LL GET TO SEE HIM IN THE MORNING WHEN HE'S BETTER
HE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
THE SAME WAY YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HIM
DON'T YOU GET IT?

やじろべえ ①



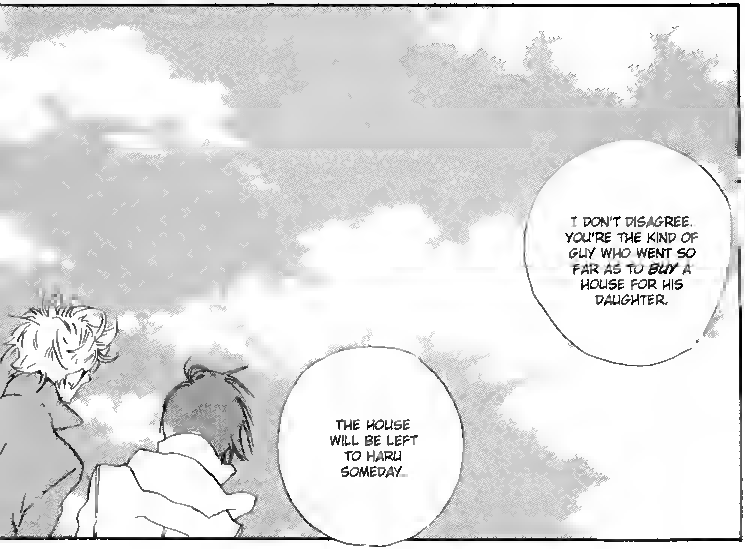
* Haru is looking up the word "osananajimi" or "childhood friend".

Hmm? I see 1, 2, 3...13 sausage bites?
MORNING
LUM, HERE... I BREWED GINGER TEA
I'LL HEAT IT UP
MORNING
Wow it looks yummy!
ONE TIME WHEN YOU WERE SICK, I REMEMBERED YOU DRANK THAT
I'M CAPABLE OF HELPING OUT MORE, SO IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST TELL ME
MM, DELICIOUS
GOOD THING YOU REMEMBERED
Y-
YEAH

GOOD MORNING, ICHIKAWA-SAN
MORNING
WANT A CUP OF HOT TEA?
THANKS, BUT I'M OK.
Morning!
Yo! All better?
Ye... I sure am!
MY DAUGHTER MADE ME GINGER TEA.
EH?
AHH.

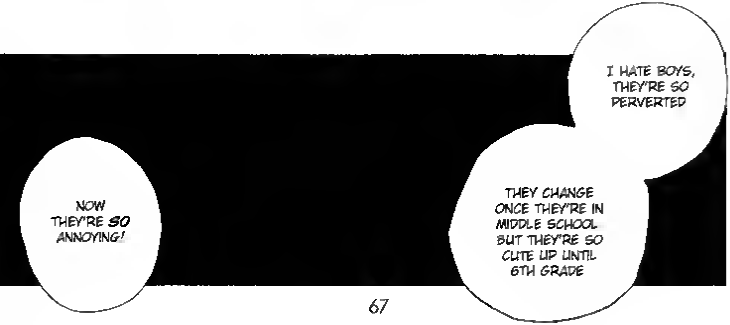
Sign reads: Walls have ears. Shouji have eyes.
THAT'S NOT TRUE
EH?
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER SHE SEES ME AS HER FATHER.
YEAH,
YOU TWO ARE CLOSE
I THINK YOU'RE A GREAT FATHER.
MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT TO DATE?
THE KID'S ALREADY BIG, SO DON'T LEAVE HER PICTURE ON YOUR DESK!
ICHIKAWA -SEMPAI IS SO ADAMANT.
I'LL GO BACK TO WORK
WELL,
AH.

I'D DO ANYTHING FOR HARU
HUH?
AM I REALLY THAT GREAT?
IT'S LUNCH-TIME


I DON'T DISAGREE. YOU'RE THE KIND OF GUY WHO WENT SO FAR AS TO *BUY* A HOUSE FOR HIS DAUGHTER.
THE HOUSE WILL BE LEFT TO HARU SOMEDAY...

I WONDER
HOW MUCH ELSE I'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE BEHIND FOR HER.
THAT CROSSES MY MIND AT TIMES.
YOU DO OCCASIONALLY GET WRAPPED UP IN YOURSELF, EVEN BACK THEN...
SAD. JUST TOO SAD
WELL SORRY. LEAVE ME ALONE.
I WONDER WHAT I CAN DO FOR SEIJI.
THOK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
CUT IT OUT IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO BE THIS WAY.
DOES FATHER-COMPLEX RING A BELL?
YOU REALLY DON'T TALK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE, DO YOU?

THE GIRLS' UNIFORMS AT KITA ARE CUTE.
THEY HAVE THREE DIFFERENT OUTFITS
EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT FOR ME.
MY FIRST CHOICE IS KITA HIGH.
HIKARI, YOU SAY ALL THE RIGHT THINGS
MAYBE YOU CAN TRY DOING WELL ON YOUR EXAMS
WELL.
HUH?
YOU GIRLS ARE GOING TO KITA?
MM
WE WANT TO GO
HMM
HARU!
BATH-ROOM!


I HATE BOYS, THEY'RE SO PERVERTED
THEY CHANGE ONCE THEY'RE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL BUT THEY'RE SO CUTE UP UNTIL 6TH GRADE
NOW THEY'RE SO ANNOYING!

HUH?
SEIJI?
NOTHING... YOU GUYS SEEM TO HIT IT OFF PRETTY WELL
SORRY, UM,
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT SEIJI-SAN
HUH?
BOYS ARE ALWAYS PLOTTING SOMETHING. THEY'RE SO IDIOTIC
I LIVE IN... A FATHER-LESS FAMILY, AND I'VE SEEN HOW MANY TIMES MY MOM HAS SUFFERED BECAUSE OF MEN
MAYBE THAT'S WHY?
I KNOW I'M BEING PREJUDCIED... BUT MOM CAN'T SEEM TO LIVE WITHOUT A MAN
STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT SEIJI, EITHER.

I LIVED IN AN APARTMENT SINCE I WAS SMALL.
I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT STARTED, BUT I MADE FRIENDS WITH A BOY NEXT DOOR, WHO WAS A YEAR OLDER THAN ME
"All us kids can do "is be aware."
Ha ha ha
HARU, THERE YOU GO TALKING ABOUT SEIJI-SAN AGAIN!
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'RE STILL KIDS AFTER ALL.

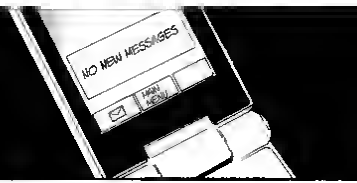
WHENEVER SOMETHING HAPPENED, WE'D OFTEN GO TO EACH OTHER'S PLACE, AND IT WAS ALMOST LIKE WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER.

THE LAST TIME WE MET WAS AT HIS MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY.

THAT BOY LEFT THE APARTMENT A YEAR AGO.

BUT SOMETIMES I'LL REMINISCE ABOUT HIM.

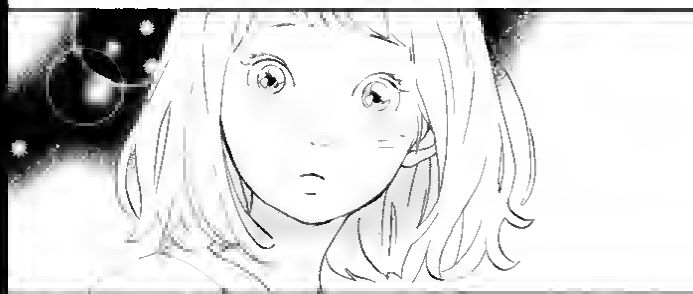
I NEVER HEARD FROM HIM AFTER THAT.



"Don't you get it?"

"the same way you're worried about him."

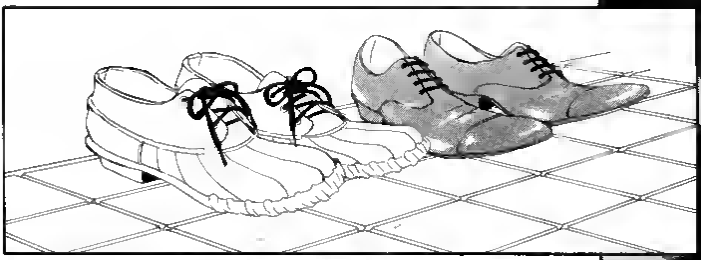
"He's worried about you."



WE SHOULD GO TO KITA HIGH, HARU
HUH?
I LIKE THE SKIRT TO THE RIGHT
I LIKE THE ONE TO THE LEFT!
BUT THE RIGHT'S CUTE, TOO

HEY LOOK, HARU!
KITA HIGH'S UNIFORM
Y-
YEAH
YOU'RE RIGHT

"Me too..."

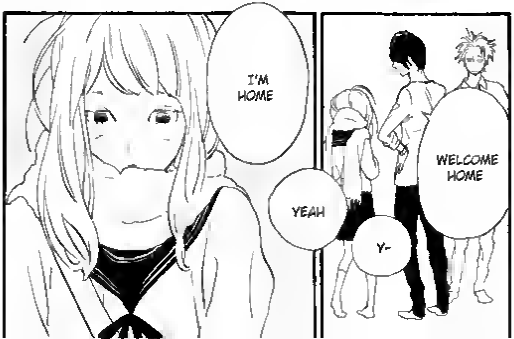


WOAH,
THERE

AH.
SOME-
BODY'S
HERE.

THAT WAS CLOSE.
ARE YOU OK?

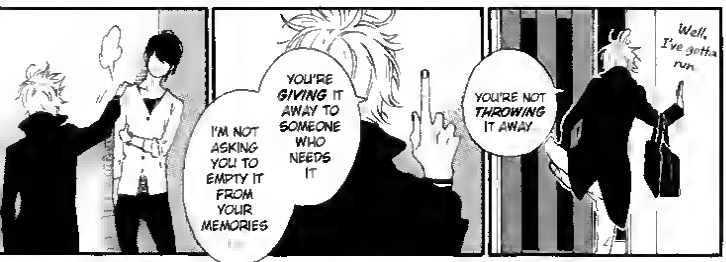
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.


I'M HOME
YEAH
Y-
WELCOME HOME

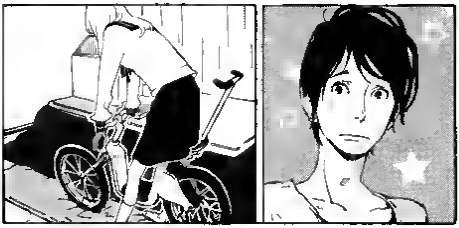
やじろべえ

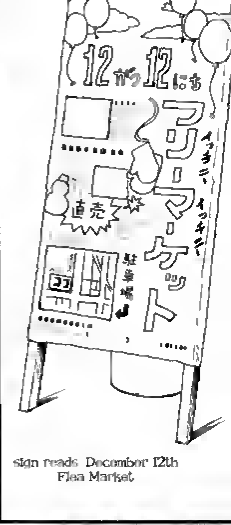
SO,
WHICH ONE OF YOU MADE THIS BIG MESS?
NOT ME.
THIS GUY DID.
I'M NOT JUST ANY GUY.
PLOK
PLOK
DON'T GIVE ME WEIRD NICKNAMES!
You're hurting my feelings damn it!
BATA* POTA-TOES
PEANUT BATA.*
THEY CALL ME "MASTER KAWABA-TA."
*Butter is pronounced "bata" in Japanese
WE WERE TRYING TO CLEAN UP EVERYTHING THAT YOU GUYS DON'T NEED
GOING BACK ON TOPIC. THERE'S GOING TO BE A FLEA MARKET THIS YEAR LET'S ALL GO.
HE DID IT ON HIS OWN.
UH-HUH
No, he doesn't
He must have nothing to do
I'M FINE. MY COLD IS CURED.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE SAYING, "CARE KILLED THE CAT"?*
*Too much worry or anxiety is bad for one's health.

THERE'S NOTHING HERE THAT WE DON'T NEED.
DON'T FLIRT WITH YOUR DAUGHTER, YOU IDIOT!
I'LL MAKE MORE TOMORROW.
IT WARMED ME UP. THANKS, HARU
DON'T NEED THIS
THIS, TOO
WHAT'S THIS?
DON'T NEED IT
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU HIDE ALL THIS STUFF IN THAT CRAMPED APARTMENT?
IN MORE THAN ONE WAY
ANYWAY, YOU NEED TO SORT EVERYTHING OUT.
PFFT!
YOU DON'T PLAY WITH IT AT ALL, SEIJI
MAYBE WE CAN GET RID OF THIS?
AH
No.
IT WAS MEANT FOR YOU.
KAWA-BATA!
HAHHH
DON'T NEED THIS EITHER, RIGHT?


I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO EMPTY IT FROM YOUR MEMORIES
YOU'RE GIVING IT AWAY TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS IT
YOU'RE NOT THROWING IT AWAY
Well, I've gotta run.

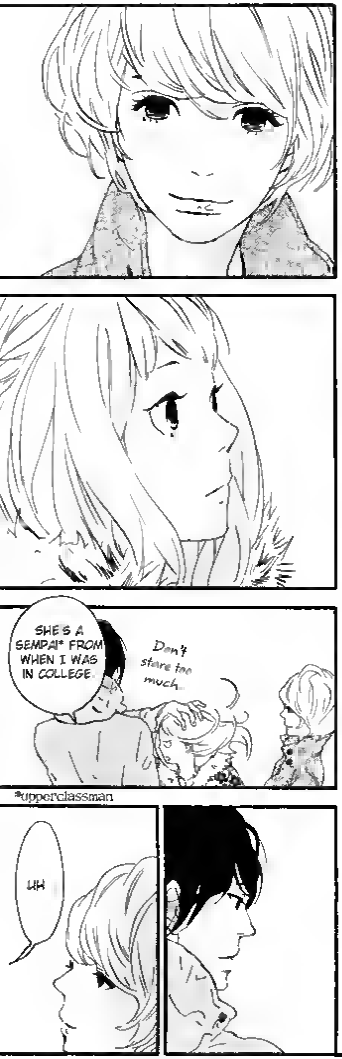
I'M JUST SAYING YOU NEED TO TAKE SOME WEIGHT OFF YOUR SHOULDERS.
SEIJI, LOOK! BRINGS BACK MEMORIES, DOESN'T IT?
TOO BAD I CAN'T USE IT ANYMORE

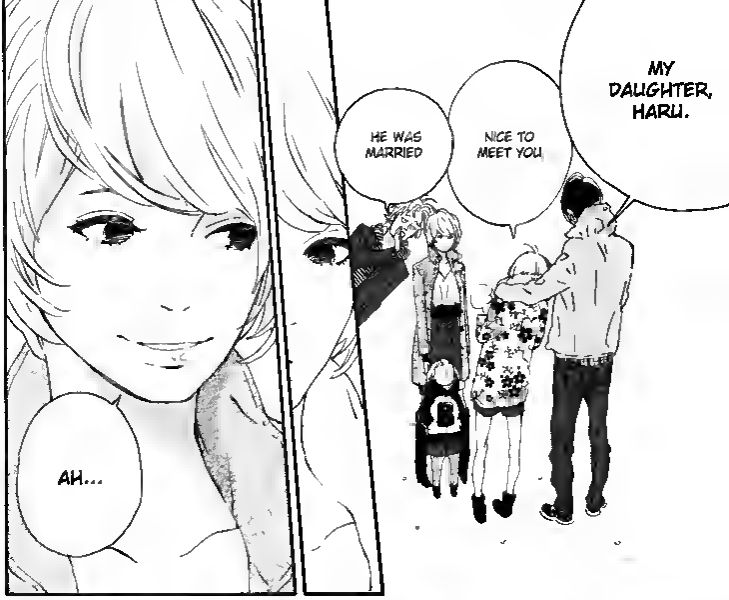




sign reads: December 12th
Flea Market

SEIJI!
LET'S WALK AROUND TOGETHER.
SEIJI-KUN.
I'M THIRSTY


SHE'S A SEMPAI* FROM WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE.
Don't stare too much.
*upperclassman
UH


AH...
HE WAS MARRIED
NICE TO MEET YOU.
MY DAUGHTER, HARU.

HA HA HA
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT, SEIJI-KUN!
YOU'D THINK WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER, SINCE WE HAVEN'T MET IN SO LONG, BUT WE DO!
HA HA
WE HAVEN'T MET IN TEN YEARS
I DID QUIT COLLEGE HALF-WAY THROUGH
OH, BUT, YOU'RE RIGHT
I NEVER KNEW! HAHAHA
SEIJI-KUN, YOU'RE A FATHER?
FATHER?

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED EITHER, CHIE-CHAN
YEP.
GAVE ME A SHOCK TOO
CUT IT OUT
I HAVE A CHILD ALREADY
Ha
Ha
Ha
Ha
It's pretty tough, you know?
SEIJI'S HAVING FUN

IN COLLEGE, I WAS A YEAR AHEAD OF SEIJI-KUN.
CHIE SAMEJIMA.
MY NAME IS
LET'S SEE
YOU'RE HARU-CHAN, RIGHT?
NICE TO MEET YOU.
SHE LAUGHS A LOT,
AND SEEMS CHEERFUL.
WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GO EXPLORE?
THERE ARE SO MANY SHOPS IT'LL BE FUN
Yeah, there's all sorts
HARU?!
HEY!
EH?
BFT.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF SEIJI.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

AH
OK, I'LL GO FOR A BIT.
GO ON.
I'LL TEND OUR SPACE.
I'LL WATCH HER
ARE YOU SURE?
THEN, WE'LL REALLY BE GOING
WE'LL BE BACK RIGHT AWAY
I'M STAYING HERE!
SAY...

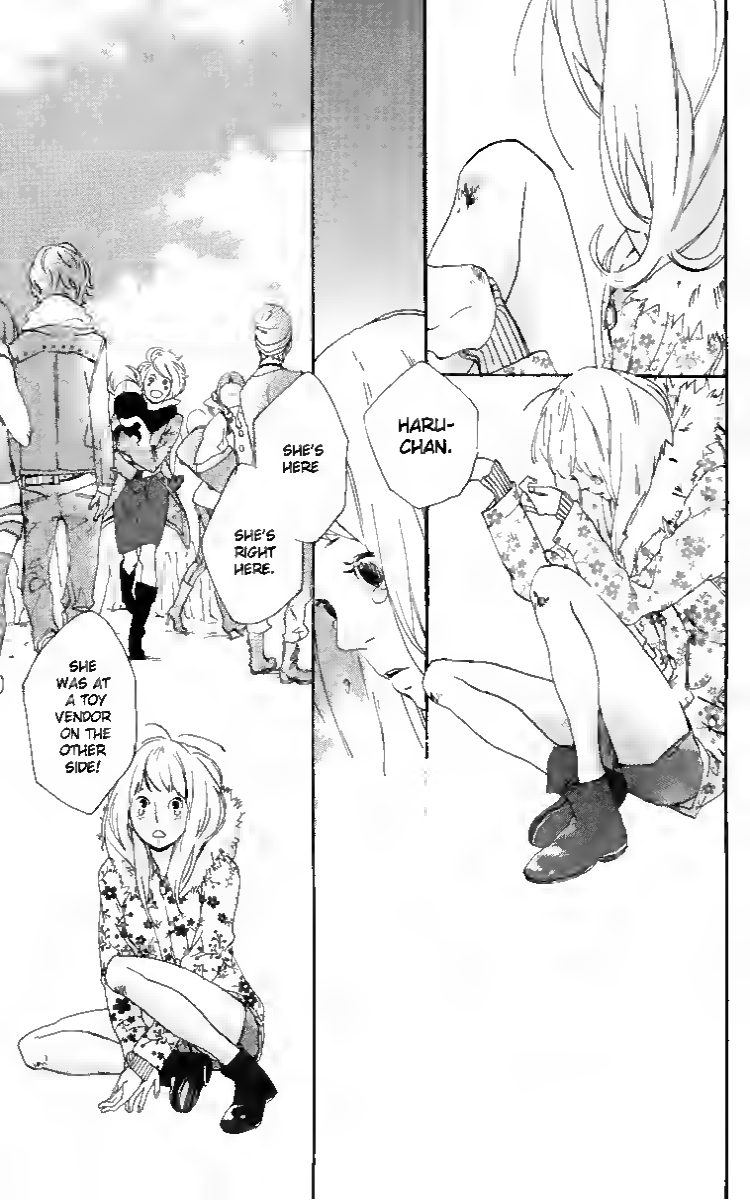
RUSTLE RUSTLE
THOSE ARE ALL TOYS THAT I USED TO PLAY WITH.
GROWN-UPS HAVE A LOT OF STUFF TO CATCH UP ON.
I WAS A CHILD ONCE, TOO.
DID I EVER CAUSE HIM TROUBLE?
I WONDER IF I EVER ACTED SELFISH...
SEIJI MUST HAVE BEEN WILLING TO DO ANYTHING FOR MY SAKE...
WHAT WAS I LIKE?

HUH?!
SHE'S NOT HERE!

I'M SORRY.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE GONE TO SEARCH RIGHT AWAY,
BUT I WASN'T SURE IF I SHOULD MOVE AWAY FROM HERE.
BUT I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE GONE RIGHT AWAY!
HOW LONG AGO?
I DON'T KNOW MAYBE FIVE MINUTES?
OK

I'LL GO AND LOOK TOO!
STAY THERE, KAWABATA
SHE MAY COME BACK.
O-OK!
HARU.

OH, NO!
OH, NO!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.


HARU-CHAN.
SHE'S HERE
SHE'S RIGHT HERE.
SHE WAS AT A TOY VENDOR ON THE OTHER SIDE!

I'M SORRY.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT YOU SEEMED A LITTLE TOO BIG
TO BE SEIJI'S CHILD.
BUT I THINK I HAVE IT ALL FIGURED OUT.
WHEN WE WERE WALKING, I QUESTIONED HIM RIGHT OFF THE BAT.
I'M...A REPULSIVE WOMAN.
I COULDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT CHIE SAMEJIMA WAS TRYING TO TELL ME.
THANK GOD, YOU FOUND HER.
I WAS THE ONE WHO TOOK MY EYES OFF OF HER IN THE FIRST PLACE
SO DON'T APOLOGIZE, OK?

CHIE-SAN IS A NICE PER-SON.
Haru you're injured
SORRY, SEIJI-KUN
BUT I FIGURED THAT SHE KNEW ABOUT SEIJI AND ME.
GOOD THING IT DIDN'T LEAD TO ANYTHING SERIOUS
SHE SAID SHE WAS TAKING CARE OF A FRIEND'S CHILD
HUH?
OH, TOWA?
THERE'S A FIRST AID KIT IN THE BACK SEAT, RIGHT?
YEAH, THAT ONE
I'M IN FRONT OF THE PARK'S BATHROOM BRING IT OVER.
YEAH, RIGHT THERE THANKS

"I have a child, too..."
"Stop it."

第3話

AN HOUR INTO MEETING THESE PEOPLE
I FEEL LIKE I CAN SEE HOW THEY'VE SPENT THE LAST TEN YEARS OF THEIR LIVES.
THAT'S BECAUSE SAME-JIMA CHIE'S SON
IS AROUND THE SAME AGE AS ME.

YOU'RE A GIRL YOU NEED TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF
MY PARENTS WOULD SAY THE SAME THING TO ME
TOWA IS A BOY, SO I CAN LEAVE HIM TO FEND FOR HIMSELF.
I'M A FAILURE OF A FATHER.
I'M ALMOST ALWAYS LEFT ON MY OWN
HAHAHA. BUT I'M GLAD TO BE OF USE I DIDN'T WANT TO COME OFF SOUNDING LIKE A LECTURING GRANDMA
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOME-THING?
STOP ACTING SHY IN FRONT OF A CUTE GIRL!
STOP THAT! I'M NOT CUTE!
NICE TO MEET-CHA

?
BALLOON IS THAT?
WHOSE
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT AT ALL, DO YOU?
"NICE TO MEET-CHA"?
SOMEBODY PROBABLY GAVE UP AFTER IT GOT CAUGHT.
IT'S MINE NOW

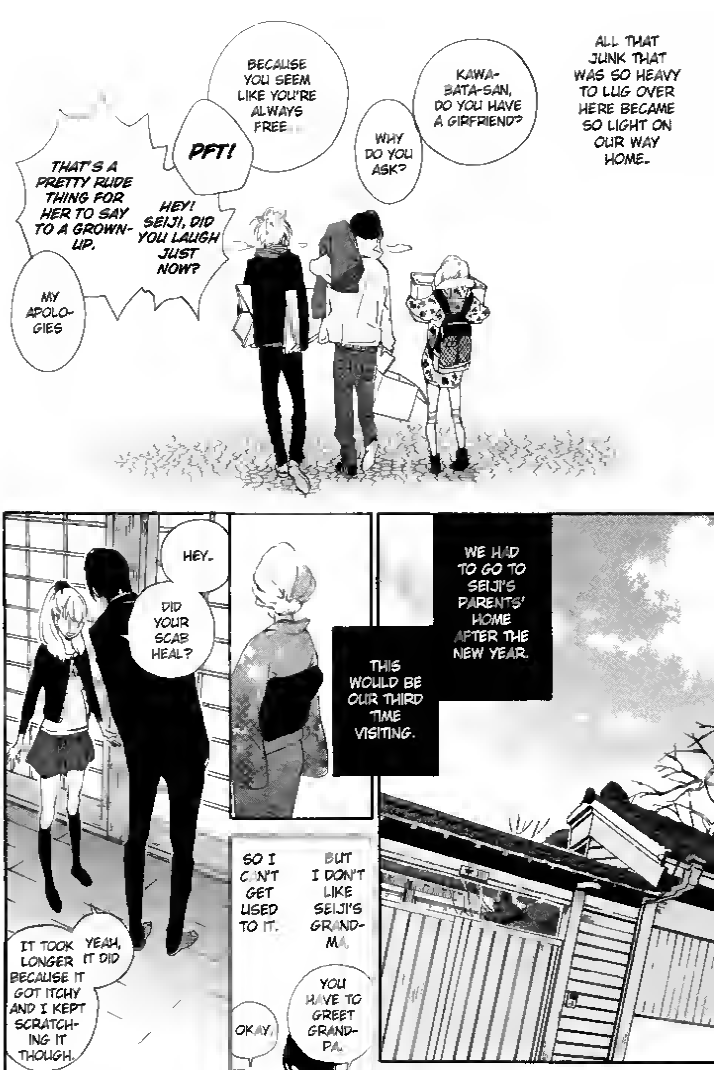
GOTCHA!
WOW!
YEAH HE REALLY CLIMBED UP AND GOT IT

AWW
PER-FECT-O
THUD
SEEMS LIKE IT
WE WON'T LOSE HER NOW
PLUUK
PLUUK
THAT REMINDS ME

THAT BONTA-KUN WHO LIVED NEXT DOOR WHEN WE LIVED IN THE APARTMENT
WAS A PRETTY NICE KID.
A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN I WAS LAID UP IN BED WITH A HIGH FEVER,
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE HARU WITH THE WOMAN NEXT DOOR
BECAUSE SHE WAS STILL SMALL THEN.
I WAS AFRAID TO LEAVE HER ALL BY HERSELF.
BONTA-KUN HELD ONTO YOUR HAND THE WHOLE TIME.
I WAS SO RELIEVED WHEN I HEARD THAT.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, AFTER THAT AND UP UNTIL NOW,
DIDN'T HE STAY BY YOUR SIDE?

I LIKED HIM.
SEIJI
YOU LIKED BONTA?
YEP, I SURE DID
I WONDER HOW HE'S DOING
SHEESH!
TELL HIM I'M DOING WELL TOO
I-
I WILL LATER.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE SEIJI WOULD TALK ABOUT BONTA.
SO HE MUST HAVE FELT NOSTALGIC ABOUT HIM TOO..
ME TOO..
TELL ME YOUR NAME.
HE COULD HAVE ASKED CHIE-SAN
HARU
HMM.
WE'RE LEAVING THOUGH.

WOW, THIS SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
FOR YOU, THAT IS.
HAHA.
REALLY?
AH.
I FORGOT TO THANK CHIE-SAN.
WHAT SHOULD I DO, SEIJI?
I DIDN'T ASK FOR HER CONTACT INFO
SORRY!
OH MY GOD I CAN'T BE-LIEVE YOU! SHE'S YOUR FRIEND!
KAWABATA PROBABLY ASKED FOR IT
SOLD OUT.
WHAAAAT?!
NO WAY!


ALL THAT JUNK THAT WAS SO HEAVY TO LUG OVER HERE BECAME SO LIGHT ON OUR WAY HOME..
KAWA-BATA-SAN, DO YOU HAVE A GIRFRIEND?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
BECAUSE YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS FREE...
PFT!
HEY! SEIJI, DID YOU LAUGH JUST NOW?
THAT'S A PRETTY RUDE THING FOR HER TO SAY TO A GROWN-UP.
MY APOLO-GIES
WE HAD TO GO TO SEIJI'S PARENTS' HOME AFTER THE NEW YEAR.
THIS WOULD BE OUR THIRD TIME VISITING.
HEY.
DID YOUR SCAB HEAL?
YEAH, IT DID
IT TOOK LONGER BECAUSE IT GOT ITCHY AND I KEPT SCRATCH-ING IT THOUGH.
BUT I DON'T LIKE SEIJI'S GRAND-MA.
SO I CAN'T GET USED TO IT.
YOU HAVE TO GREET GRAND-PA.
OKAY.

THERE'S AN EXTRA ONE
OH
THE PAPER AIRPLANE I LEFT AS AN OFFERING
SHE DIDN'T THROW IT AWAY.
THE SCAB LEFT ONLY A SUBTLE, BURN-LIKE SCAR.
OH, I SEE
CHNUG...
SEIJI STOPPED BY HERE AGAIN AFTER-WARDS.
BUT MINE PROBABLY REACHED GRAMPA BEFORE YOURS.
OKAY, OKAY! I BET MINE CRASH-LANDED ANYWAY.
YEAH, I HEARD.
SEIJI,
ABOUT THAT PAPER AIRPLANE...

DON'T WORRY, HE'LL GET IT.
UNRELENTINGLY THINK WITH ALL YOUR HEART.
WHEN THE VERBS "TO THINK" AND "TO DESIRE" ARE COMPOUNDED,
IT SPELLS OUT "SHINEN."*
WHEN WORDS LIKE THESE EXIST, IT GIVES US BLIND FAITH BUT, IT ALSO FEELS LIKE UNREQUITED LOVE
YEAH.
EVEN SO, I THINK IT'S A GENTLE WORD.
STILL, IT MAKES ME A LITTLE SAD

WHEN I LOOK AT THE SCAR ON MY KNEE,
I THINK OF CHIE-SAN
IS THIS A FORM OF "SHINEN" TOO?

IT LEFT A SCAR, HUH...?
I WAS BEING CARELESS, SO I'M NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THAT

IT JUST BUGS ME THAT I DIDN'T GIVE HER A PROPER THANK YOU
AND IT'S POINTLESS IF YOUR FEELINGS DON'T REACH HER, HUH?

WANT TO COME WITH US?
YOU MAY GO IF YOU WISH
I'VE ALREADY GONE.
DID YOU ALREADY VISIT THE SHRINE IN THE BACK?
*The first year anniversary of a person's death
REMEMBER THAT THIS IS YOUR HOME.
...COME AND VISIT AGAIN
SO THIS SUMMER
THEY'LL PERFORM THE BURIAL RITES AFTER ISSHUKI*,
...

GRAMMA.
TAKE CARE.
THANKS, SEIJI
I'M GLAD I CAME.
HARU.
DON'T FORGET YOU HAVE ANOTHER GRANDMA.
YOUNG GRAND-MA.
AH.

WHAT'S WRONG?
MY SHOULDERS ARE STIFF.
OH
I TOTALLY GET YOU.
I NEVER USED TO GET ALONG WITH GRANDMA.
YEAH.
BUT SHE'S A NICE PERSON
HAHA!
Rub
Rub
ME TOO
OH, NO!
IF WE TALK ABOUT GRANDMA,
THEN GRANDPA WILL APPEAR.
I'M NOT SCARED ANYMORE.
TCH
YOU'RE NO FUN

MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND WHO LIVED IN THE APARTMENT NEXT DOOR WAS A BOY

HIS NAME WAS BONTA AND HE WAS ONE YEAR OLDER.

HE SUDDENLY STOPPED TALKING TO ME AND GRADUATED FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL JUST LIKE THAT.

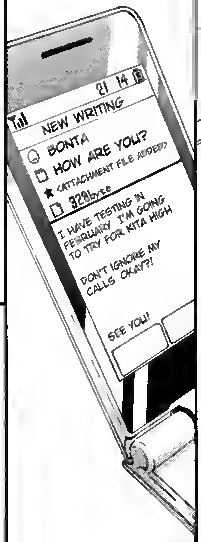
BUT STILL, THERE ARE TIMES,

WITHOUT FAIL,

WHEN I'D BE WORRIED ABOUT HIM...

WHEN MY THIRD YEAR OF SCHOOL STARTED,

I SENT OUT A TEXT MESSAGE TO BONTA, THINKING IT WOULD BE MY LAST.



SHOULD I PRAY FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS?

I'LL DO THAT.

JUST THINK OF A PRAYER FOR YOURSELF.

... I DON'T HAVE ANY

DON'T LIE.

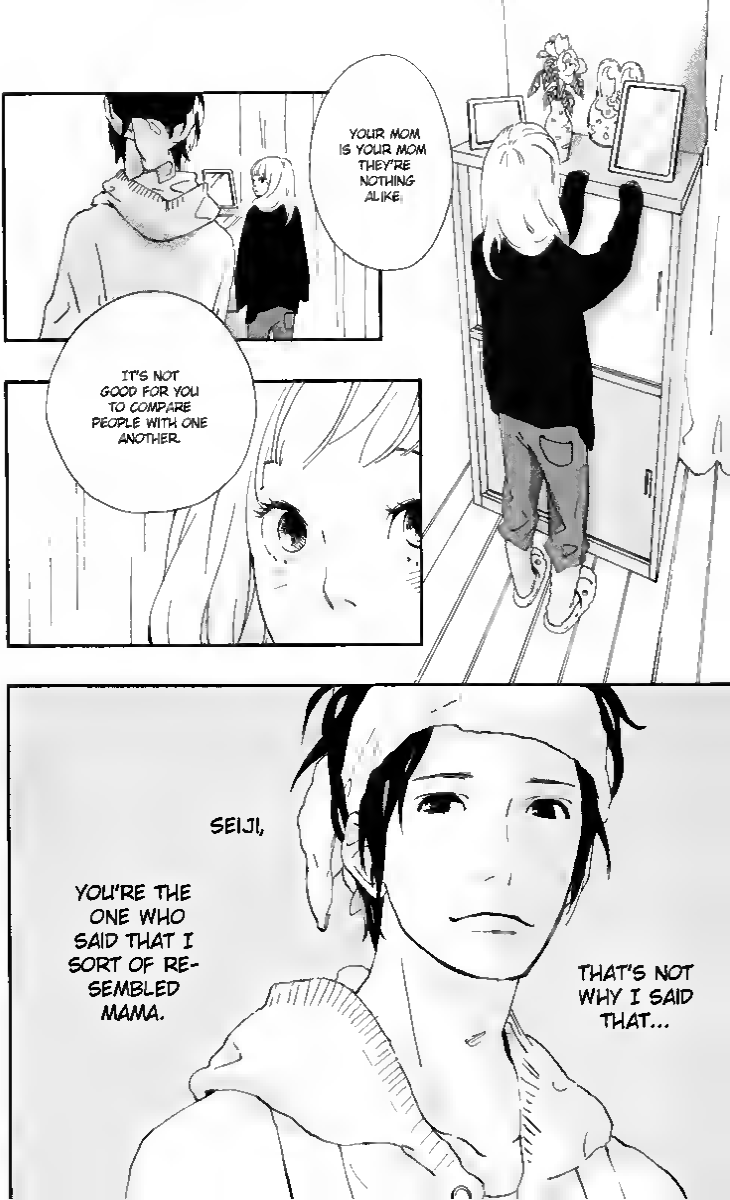
You have plenty don't you?

WELCOME HOME.
THE SEIJI TODAY SEEMS VERY UPBEAT.
YEAH, I'M HOME.
I'M TIRED OF WAITING.
YOU'RE LAAATE
WOW, OKAMOTO
DID SOMEONE COME?
AH
HARU-CHAN.
Sorry to intrude
YO!
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO SEE HER?
KAWA-BATA GOT A HOLD OF HER.
YEP
IT'S CHIE-CHAN AND TOWA-KUN.

THANKS FOR HELPING ME WHEN I GOT INJURED
UH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL
I HAVE A FATAL BOND WITH THESE TWO
KAWABATA-SAN YOU HAVE TOO MUCH SPARE TIME
You're even playing with food.
meow
meow
meow
SORRY THAT IT LEFT A SCAR.
OH, NO, IT'S OKAY.
HARU.
AND HE'S LAYING ROUND LIKE IT'S HIS OWN HOUSE!
WHY'S HER SON HERE TOO?
CHIE-SAN ASIDE,
HUH?
I KNEW WE'D MEET AGAIN.
IT'S FUNNY.
THAT'S MY MANGA

I BOUGHT IT A LONG TIME AGO, BUT NEVER GOT TO USE IT.
I WANTED TO HAND IT TO YOU.
THIS IS A CHARM FOR YOUR TEST.
I'VE ALREADY SEEN HARU-CHAN.
WELL, WE'LL BE GOING.
(THE TRUTH BEHIND SEIJ'S GOOD HUMOR)
JUST TAKE IT.
...
AREN'T YOU GLAD?
FIDGET
FIDGET
I HAD PLANNED TO DROP OUT OF COLLEGE AND TAKE THE STATE EXAM,
BUT I QUIT.
AH.
I JUST REMEMBERED, IT'S ALREADY BEEN USED!!
I WAS HOLDING ONTO IT WHEN I WAS GIVING BIRTH TO TOWA!!
SHOULDN'T THAT BE THE "SAFE DELIVERY" PRAYER?
I KNOW THAT,
BUT-
...WHY?
BUT IT'S FILLED WITH EMOTIONS
SORRY THAT IT'S OLD,

YOUR BIRTH WAS A SUCCESS
SNAP
AT LEAST
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, SO WHO CARES?
I WAS BRIMMING WITH POWER.
HEY
SOMEONE SHUT HER UP.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER?
SHE'S SO HYPER.
EXIT
CHIE-SAN, SHOULDN'T YOU LEAVE NOW?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND?
HUH? YOU DIDN'T HEAR?
I'M A SINGLE MOTHER
WHILE CHIE-SAN LEFT HER CHARM BEHIND,
TOWA TOOK OFF WITH MY MANGA.
WHEN I LOOK AT CHIE-SAN,
I REMEMBER MAMA...
THEY'RE WORLDS APART,
BUT THERE'S JUST SOMETHING...


YOUR MOM IS YOUR MOM THEY'RE NOTHING ALIKE.
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO COMPARE PEOPLE WITH ONE ANOTHER.
SEIJI,
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT I SORT OF RESEMBLED MAMA.
THAT'S NOT WHY I SAID THAT...

VRRRR
VRRRRRRR
Str
Vrrrr
Vrrrr
...NO
THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE I'M GROWING.
I WONDER
WHAT IT WAS ABOUT MAMA THAT MADE SEIJI FALL IN LOVE WITH HER.
HE'D DEFINITELY BE STUMPED
IF I ASKED HIM SOMETHING LIKE THAT
BUT I AM CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT HE'S LIKE WHEN HE'S STUMPED...
I GOT A TEXT FROM BONTA
WHAT'D IT SAY? IS HE DOING WELL?

16 件
受信メール
20XX/ 01/ 14/ 21 31
SONTA
< NO ATTACHMENTS?
DUDE. I'M NOT LENDING YOUR CALLS
SORRY

Raaathe...

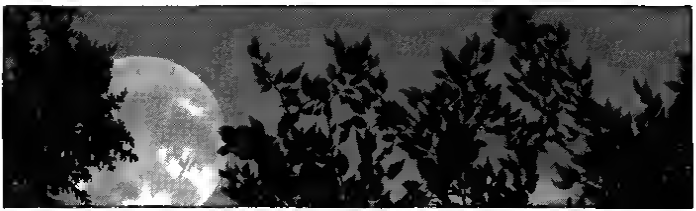
COME UP
I'M GOING TO WORK SOON
OK... I'LL BE QUICK
HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME?
DID I TELL YOU?
WHEN I MOVED OUT,
YOUR MOM TOLD ME
BONTA... YOUR HAIR'S GROWN LONGER.
THE DOOR-PLATE...
YOUR SUR-NAME CHANGED.
HUH...

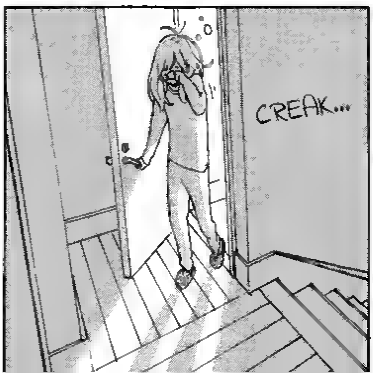
WHAT'S THAT LOOK FOR?
HUH?
DID I MAKE A WEIRD FACE?
MAYBE I CAME AT THE WRONG TIME.
WELL, THAT SORT OF THREW ME OFF.
YEAH
NO
IT'S JUST THAT YOUR EYEBROWS
WERE ALL SCRUNCHED UP.
OR MORE LIKE,
MAYBE IT WAS GOOD FOR ME TO HAVE COME.
SORRY, I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS SINCE IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
YOU SHOULD GO HOME.
BONTA!
Sorry.
DON'T COME HERE ANYMORE!

I'M SO GLAD...
BONTA...
NOT ONLY DID I PART WITH BONTA, BUT SEIJI'S GRANDPA PASSED AWAY,
AND THEN WE LOST OUR APARTMENT.
I'M GLAD I COULD TALK TO YOU!
ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH ME?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU
DON'T BE AFRAID TO ADMIT THAT YOU LOVE ME
I'LL PROTECT YOU LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS. YOU'RE FEELING LONELY, AREN'T YOU?

I WAS SO SAD
"It feels like unrequited love"
"When the verbs "to think" and "to desire" are compounded
"Unrelentingly think with all your heart"
YOU KNOW,
SEIJI SAID THAT HE LIKED YOU.
I KNOW
BECAUSE HE SAID THAT,
IT MADE ME WANT FOR US TO BE TOGETHER AGAIN
MM. SEIJI DID?
WHAT?
NOTH-ING

"Even so, I think it's a gentle word."

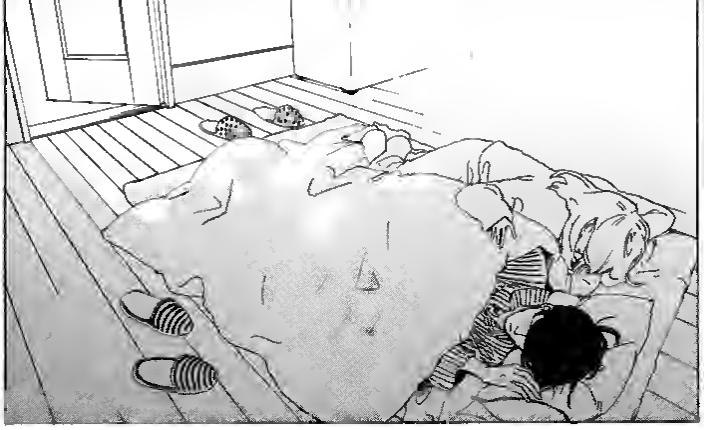


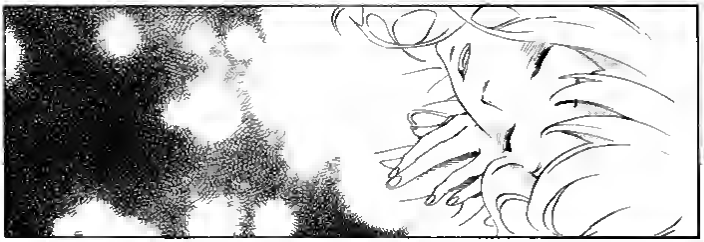

CREAK...

AT THAT TIME,
SEIJI WEPT A LITTLE SADLY, THINKING OF MAMA.
"It makes me a little sad."

MY HEART IS FULL OF SEIJI.
BUT MAMA, WHO SEIJI FELL IN LOVE WITH.

THE MAMA OF MY MEMORIES, IS ALWAYS SMILING.





GOING TO TELL SEIJI ABOUT THAT.
I THINK SHE'D BE A BIT LIKE CHIE-SAN. BUT I'M NOT
IF MAMA WAS STILL ALIVE,

第4話

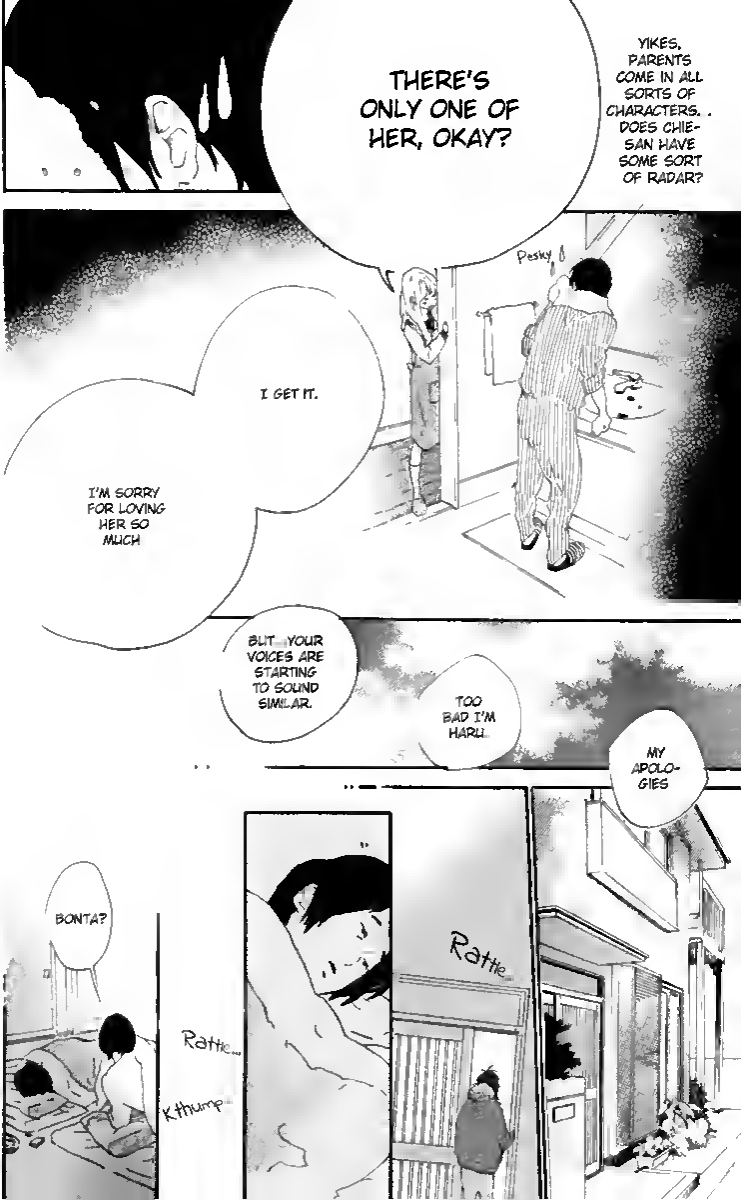
COU-
GH

WANT A SMOKE?
SEIJI.
SEIJI.

FW
up

THUD
HARU.
YOU SCARED ME!
IT'S ALREADY MORNING. I HAVE EXAMS TODAY
OH, I'M SORRY
I OVER-SLEPT

I'M HARU.
THIS IS REALITY.
BUT TOO BAD!
HUH?
SOME-ONE'S ON FIRE
YOU LOVE HER SOOO MUCH, YOU EVEN SEE HER IN YOUR DREAMS
YOU MISTOOK ME FOR MAMA AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
OKAY, OKAY.
I'VE ALREADY MADE BREAKFAST, SO HURRY UP AND EAT
TEST-TAKERS HAVE TO GET UP EARLY
WHAT'S WRONG, HARU? YOU'RE SO HYPER THIS MORNING.
Shove
CHIE-SAN LEFT ME 'A CHARM' こと は
Plop


THERE'S ONLY ONE OF HER, OKAY?
YIKES, PARENTS COME IN ALL SORTS OF CHARACTERS. . DOES CHIE-SAN HAVE SOME SORT OF RADAR?
Pesky
I GET IT.
I'M SORRY FOR LOVING HER SO MUCH
BUT... YOUR VOICES ARE STARTING TO SOUND SIMILAR.
TOO BAD I'M HARU.
MY APOLO-GIES
Rattle...
Rattle...
Kthump
BONTA?

HARU.

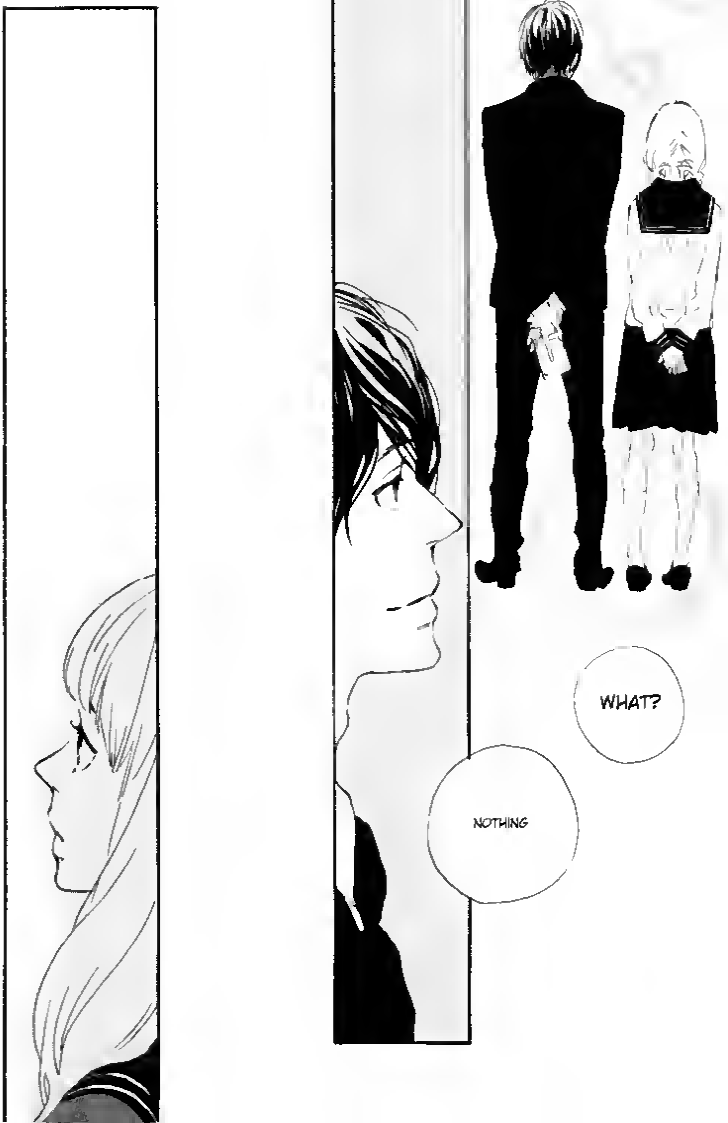
YOU CAME JUST TO TELL ME?
NO, KOMBINI *
SINCE I WAS ALREADY AWAKE, I SWUNG BY
DAMN! THAT'S WHY?
BONTA.
GOOD LUCK ON THE EXAMS
I KNOW I SENT HIM A TEXT ABOUT IT,
BUT HE ACTUALLY REMEMBERED I WAS TESTING FOR KITA HIGH.
*CONVENIENCE STORE

Hikari
THE ONLY THINGS YOU MAY HAVE ARE PENCILS ERASERS RULERS, AND THE LIKE ONLY THINGS NEEDED FOR TESTING ARE ALLOWED
TEST TAKING ROOM
235
YOU MAY BEGIN

SU
AP
EEK!
CALM DOWN.
I'LL WAKE UP THINK-ING,
MAYBE YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP YOUR OLD LIFESTYLE IN THE APART-MENTS?
SOMETIMES I DO THINGS THAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND
EVEN NOW I'LL WANDER INTO SEIJI'S ROOM TO SLEEP
CAN A DEAD PERSON BORROW SOMEONE'S BODY?
COULD THAT BE IT?

HOW IS IT?
GOT IT.
GOT IT?
HM, I TOOK A CUTE SHOT OF HIKARI-CHAN
SEIJI-SAN, LET ME USE YOUR CAMERA I'LL TAKE A PICTURE OF YOU TWO
I TOOK SO MANY PICTURES OF HARU THAT IT USED UP ALL THE MEMORY

YOU CAN LEARN THAT ON YOUR OWN.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T TEACH ME HOW TO USE IT
HIKARI-CHAN CAN YOU LINE UP WITH HARU ONE MORE TIME?
HOHOHA
Hikari! let's take a picture!
Wait a sec
...
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT YOU TOUCHING IT!
THE ONES I TOOK BEFORE ARE GONE, TOO
HOW MEAN!
HERE, LET ME DELETE THE BAD ONES
AH
IT'S ALL GONE
Okay okay Fork over the camera Seiji san
What?!
It was supposed to be much cuter
Shaaaa
SOMETHING SEIJI LIKES.
Flap Flap
HM?
UNLIKE THE DIGITAL.
I LIKE THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T ERASE ANYTHING,
THIS ONE'S A POLA-ROID
SEIJI, WHY DO YOU HAVE TWO CAMERAS?


WHAT?
NOTHING

HEY, HARU
MY NUM-BER.
THERE IT IS!
学業御守
BONTA.
HEADING BACK?
YEAH, I NEED TO REPORT TO MY TEACHER.
THEN I'M GOING TOO
HUH?

WEAR YOUR UNIFORM PROPERLY.
SENSEI, I PASSED!
KOMURA-SAKI!
WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL, HUH?
BEEN A WHILE, SENSEI
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? I'VE GRADUATED
QUIT BUGGING ME
AW, BUT IT WON'T AFFECT US
YOU SHOULD IMPROVE THE RULES FOR THE FRESHMEN
YOU KIDS ALWAYS SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT
HE SAID YOUR RESTRICTIONS ARE LAME
WHAT?!
CAN'T YOU LET THE GIRLS WEAR THEIR SKIRTS SHORTER?
'SIDES, YOUR RESTRICTIONS ARE SO LAME
MY PROMOTION'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED, SO I'LL BE FINE.
IT'S NOT GOOD TO DITCH SCHOOL

WHY NOT?
CAN I?
LET'S GO TO MY PLACE
TAKE IT.
WHOMP
I GOT IT BY ACCIDENT.
DON'T NEED IT.
AND TAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT
IT'S FOR PASSING THE TEST
OKAY
THEY'RE YOUR PRESENTS.

HEY, STOP THAT.
HERE, AND HERE.
THEN TAKE 'EM ALL.

I DON'T HATE THEM.
YOU LIKE PLUSH-IES?
YEAH.
HAPPY?

SORRY.
I CAN'T TAKE ALL THIS.

I BLEW A FUSE THAT TIME
AND SPEWED A BUNCH OF NONSENSE
YOU KNOW HOW YOU CAME OVER BEFORE?
HUH?

TEN YEARS AGO, BONTA'S PARENTS DIVORCED HIS MOTHER TOOK HIM WITH HER, AND THEY MOVED INTO THE SAME APARTMENT BUILDING I LIVED IN

BUT THEN BONTA WENT BACK TO HIS OLD HOUSE

MAYBE HIS PARENTS GOT BACK TOGETHER.

HUH?
THIS IS LITTLE BONTA'S ROOM RIGHT?
'CAUSE I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK
WHY ARE YOU FIDGETING?
IT'S NOT YOUR FIRST TIME.
HEY! QUIT CALLING ME "LITTLE" OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
POOF
AHA, SO THIS IS WHERE LITTLE BONTA LIVED.
I REMEMBER HOW YOU WERE WHEN YOU WERE SMALL TOO
...YEAH?
YEP
GLAD I DON'T HAVE TO FILL IN ALL THE BLANKS.

I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT MY DAD,
SO I HAVE NO FEELINGS FOR HIM.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT SOME GUY WHO ABANDONED HIS FAMILY AND GAVE UP ON MY MOM.
DON'T CARE WHETHER HE FELT LONELY OR VACANT, IT WAS SELFISH.
HE'S A PATHETIC LOSER FULL OF REGRETS.
WHAT ABOUT NOW?
I DON'T WANNA LOOK DOWN ON MY OWN DAD,
BUT WHEN I IMAGINE HOW HE THINKS IT'S SO DAMN EASY TO COME BACK,
IT MAKES ME SICK...
RIGHT NOW BONTA'S NO LONGER TINY.
THAT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO, DIDN'T IT?
MY MOM SAYS SHE'S NOT IN LOVE WITH HIM ANYMORE,
BUT ISN'T IT THE SAME IF SHE'S STILL GOT FEELINGS?
SEIJI'S A GOOD GUY...
THERE'S NOTHING HE WOULDN'T DO FOR YOU

I THINK OF IT AS LIVING WITH A STRANGER,
SO IT'S SICKENING TO BE AROUND HIM...
BUT I LIKE THIS ROOM...
I THINK IT'S THE BEST ROOM IN THE HOUSE

BONTA...

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I'VE BEEN LONELY AFTER MAMA PASSED AWAY,

..WHO CARES IF YOU'RE MAKING IT CONVENIENT FOR YOURSELF?

EASIER THAN FINDING THE GOOD THINGS.

THEN IT BECOMES MUCH EASIER TO THINK THAT WAY,

BUT ONCE YOU DISTANCE YOURSELF FROM YOUR EMOTIONS AND SAY YOU "HATE" SOMETHING OR THAT IT "ANNOYS" YOU,

OF COURSE IT ISN'T A HARD TASK TO FIND THINGS WE DON'T LIKE.

①
BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WONDER-FUL
TO REMEM-BER THINGS WITH A SMILE?
THAT'S WHAT SEIJI TAUGHT ME.

第5話

DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG AGAIN?
DID I MAKE HIM ANGRY AGAIN?
LET'S GO OUT FOR RAMEN.
"But"
I like this room. I think it's the best room in the house.
IS THIS YOUR MOM AND DAD'S ROOM?
YEAH
I KNEW IT
IT'S FLAWED.
I CAN'T GET TO MY OWN ROOM WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH HERE
FUNNY HOUSE.
NO, IT'S NOT.
Don't be dumb.

. IS THAT CHILDISH?
I WAS KIND OF SCARED...
AFRAID THAT SOMETHING WOULD COME AND TAKE ME AWAY
THERE'S NO FACE ON THE WALL!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
MOK-LIME?*
LIKE MUNCH'S "THE SCREAM"
WE HAD ONE IN MY OLD APARTMENT
* Curly strain of wood
BUT
SEIJI ALWAYS STAYED AWAKE UNTIL I WENT TO SLEEP
YOU SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT THAT TOO OFTEN, STUFF LIKE YOU SLEPT NEXT TO EACH OTHER RECENTLY...
YOU JUST MENTION HOW THE SKY'S PRETTY TODAY, AND THEY'LL BE LIKE, "SO PURE!"
PEOPLE WILL LAUGH
NOT LIKE I SAID ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
THANK GOODNESS.
WHAT?
BONTA!
BUT BONTA SAYING, "THE SKY IS BEAUTIFUL" DOESN'T FIT HIS IMAGE
MAKES ME WANT TO CRACK UP.
WHY AREN'T YOU IN SCHOOL?!

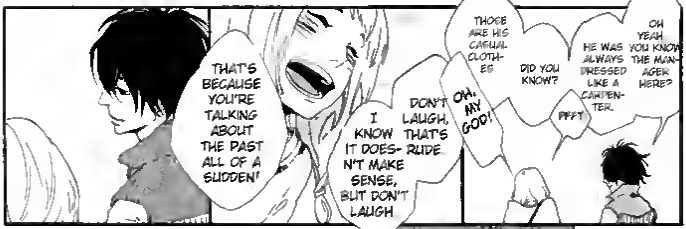
MUST BE A COLD
Turn
peek
peek
I WASN'T FEELING WELL, SO I GOT OFF OF WORK A BIT EARLY.
I CAME TO GET MY INSURANCE CARD.
WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY?
I'M NOT. Hey!
WHAT'D YOU COME BACK FOR?
SORRY TO INTRUDE.
It's been a while
OH, MY
Must be a cold!
Now where did I put that insurance card?
OH! HARU-CHAN, DID YOU KNOW?
SO IT STARTED TO GRATE ON MY NERVES
MY HUSBAND WOULDN'T STOP HIM,
AND TRIED TO COPY DANGER-OUS THINGS
IT WAS BECAUSE HE LOVED HIS FATHER MORE THAN ME
OH, DON'T LISTEN TO HIM
EH?
PSST
I AM NICE!
BE NICER TO HER
SHE GETS CHOK-ED UP EASILY
HER THROAT'S WEAK
His mouth was sticky all over
He pretended to smoke that with his dad
THERE'S THIS CHOCOLATE CANDY THAT'S SHAPED LIKE A CIGARETTE
SHE USED TO HATE IT WHEN MY DAD SMOKED IN FRONT OF ME
UH-HUH THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HARDLY REMEMBERED THE PAST.
I USED TO CARE ABOUT HER A LOT BACK THEN
USED TO?
AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED?
DON'T BLAB ON ABOUT IT
OKAY, OKAY
You're so stupid!

①
I THINK SHE'LL BE HAPPY IF YOU TAKE CARE OF HER
SHE ALWAYS GOES ALONE
IT'S OKAY!
GO WITH HER
YOU KNOW, I WAS SO WORRIED THAT YOU WOULD RUN AWAY FROM HOME...
..
Hahaha
WERE YOU UNEASY LATELY BECAUSE YOU HAD MET HARU?
?
THE TRUTH IS, I...
BONTA

OH!
TOWA-KUN, LONG TIME NO SEE
YEAH.
GOT A HAIRCUT?
JUST A TRIM.
AH! IT FEELS SO GOOD!
DEFI-NITELY MAKES ME HAPPY
WHEN IT GETS WA-RM!
YOU'RE HARU'S DAD, RIGHT?
SORRY, BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE HER OLDER BROTHER.
YIKES!
MY MOM SAID YOU'D BE MAD IF I TOLD YOU THAT
HUH ?
WHY DOES HE LOOK HAPPY? WEIRD.
PEOPLE MIS-TAKE ME FOR MY MOM'S BROTHER TOO.
WAIT.
WHERE IS SHE, BY THE WAY?
SHE'S GOING TO THE SALON FIRST
MAYBE SHE WANTS TO SHOW YOU HER PRETTY SIDE ?
HM?
TOWA-KUN, DON'T MOVE
?
HA!
HA-HA-HA HA HA.
IT'S PRETTIER OVER HERE
SHE CAN'T BEAT THIS.
WOW
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING A REAL ONE

THE CLOVERS WILL BE IN BLOOM SOON.
YEP.
WHERE'S HARU?
MAKING A STOP.
WHEN WE LIVED HERE, IT WAS REALLY WORN-DOWN.
THERE'S NOT EVEN A TRACE LEFT.
NO KIDDING.
BUT THE PLACE LOOKS NICE
RENOVATED LIKE THIS.
SORRY
DON'T KNOW WHY I WANTED TO COME AND SEE IT.
EHH?
IT'S OKAY, I WAS FEELING NOSTALGIC MYSELF
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR NOSTALGIA.

...I MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER SIBLING.
MOM'S PREGNANT RIGHT NOW.
I LIKE KIDS ALL RIGHT, SO I WAS HAPPY.
BUT, WELL... IT WAS SHOCKING.
FOR THE BABY TO BE BORN NOW,
WE'D HAVE THE SAME AGE GAP AS YOU AND SEIJI
WH-
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO MAKE THAT COMPARISON?
I THINK SHE'LL USE THIS AS AN EXCUSE TO RECONCILE WITH HIM.
AS LONG AS HE STOPS ABUSING HER FEELINGS, THEN IT'S COOL WITH ME
THAT'S ALL.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT TAKES FOR A GUY TO RAISE A KID?
FROM NOW ON... I HAVE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY SIBLING
MY DAD DOESN'T EVEN KNOW SHE'S PREGNANT YET
YOUR DAD
STILL AN INOUE! I'LL TRY AND HAVE A TALK ABOUT THAT WITH HIM TODAY
OH
AND TAKING CARE OF OLD PEOPLE IS A PAIN, SO SHE'D BETTER STAY HEALTHY
OH.
AND THEY'D BETTER DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE HOUSE IN THE FUTURE
ONE DAY I'M GONNA WALK INTO SOMETHING I DON'T WANNA SEE


THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE PAST ALL OF A SUDDEN!
I KNOW IT DOES-N'T MAKE SENSE, BUT DON'T LAUGH
DON'T LAUGH, THAT'S RUDE
OH, MY GOOD!
THOSE ARE HIS CASUAL CLOTHES
DID YOU KNOW?
PFFT
HE WAS ALWAYS DRESSED LIKE A CARPENTER.
OH YEAH, YOU KNOW THE MANAGER WERE?

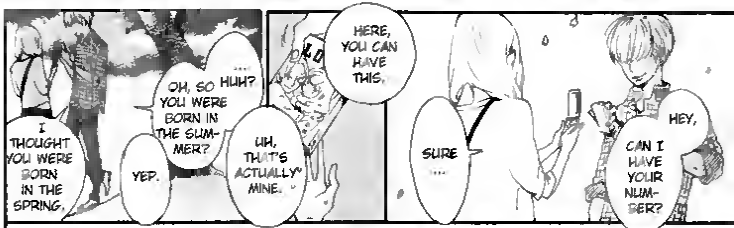
Dash
OH, NO! I CAN'T! I'M GOING TO WORK NOW
HEY!
HELLO
PFFT!
Swish Swish
Tmp Tmp Tmp
JUST IN TIME
I'VE GOT SOMETHIN' TO GIVE YA, HARU.
COME INSIDE.
HA HA HA
ISN'T THAT BONTA AND HARU?
HEY.

I WONDER,
HE-RE TA-KE 'EM.
I TOOK SEVERAL PHOTOS BEFORE THE PLACE GOT TORN DOWN
HM? THAT SO?
IT'S OKAY. WE ALREADY KNOW WE CAN'T COME BACK
IS ENCOURAGING ENOUGH.
JUST HAVING HIM AROUND
THAT MAKES ME HAPPY.
BONTA TALKED TO ME ABOUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
Good luck!
I WAS WORRIED 'CAUSE IT FELT LIKE I WAS KICKING YOU OUT.
HOW'S YER DAD?

WILL I BECOME THAT SORT OF PERSON FOR SEIJI AS WELL?
HUH? WHA-?
WHAT'S THIS?
THIS IS CHOCO-LATE!
Flick
Flick
DA HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HEE! HEE!
IT'S NOTHIN'
THAT IDIOT
BEATS ME
WHAT'S WRONG WITH INOUE-SAN?

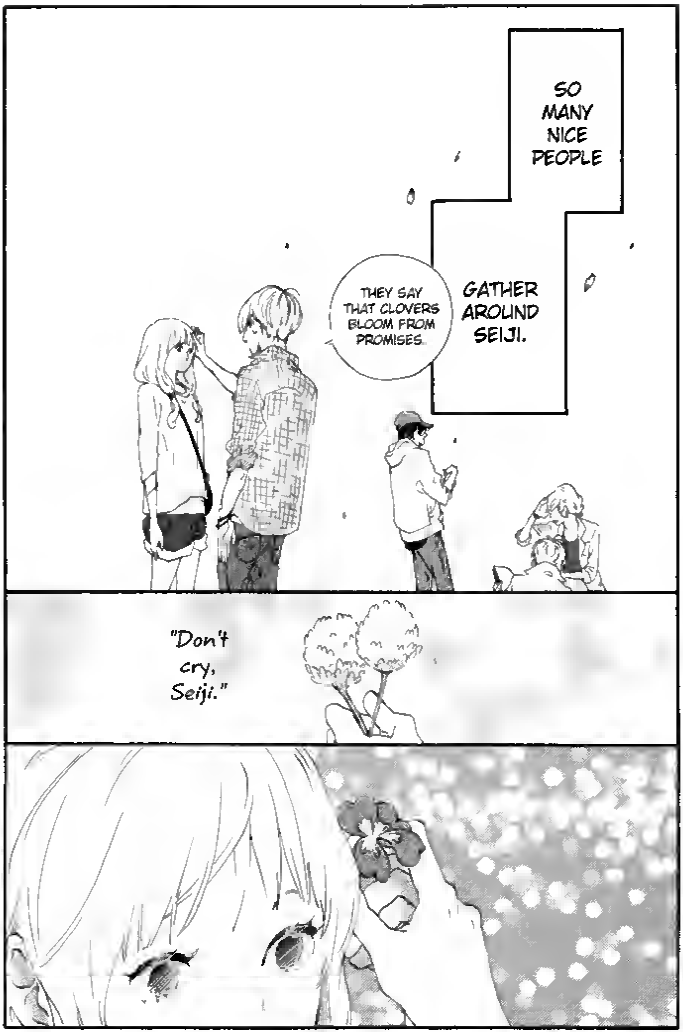
HERE
I LOVE SPRING
GLAD THE WEATHER S NICE OUT
HEY, YOU'RE LATE
TOWA!
CHIE-SAN'S CHARM
I'M RE-TURNING IT
I THINK YOU SHOULD KEEP IT AFTER ALL
OH, YEAH IT'S MY TURN FOR EXAMS
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN THOUGH
Plus it must be precious to her
THE MORE THE MERRIER, RIGHT?
...I GUESS
I DON'T LIKE TOWA.
WHAT?
NOTH-ING...

YOUR DAD'S A NICE GUY TOO.
Come down here.
Hey, you two...
SHE'S VERY PRETTY.
WHOA, WHOA. WHAT AM I SAYING?


I THOUGHT YOU WERE BORN IN THE SPRING.
YEP.
OH, SO HUH? YOU WERE BORN IN THE SUMMER?
UH, THAT'S ACTUALLY MINE.
HERE, YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
SURE
HEY, CAN I HAVE YOUR NUMBER?

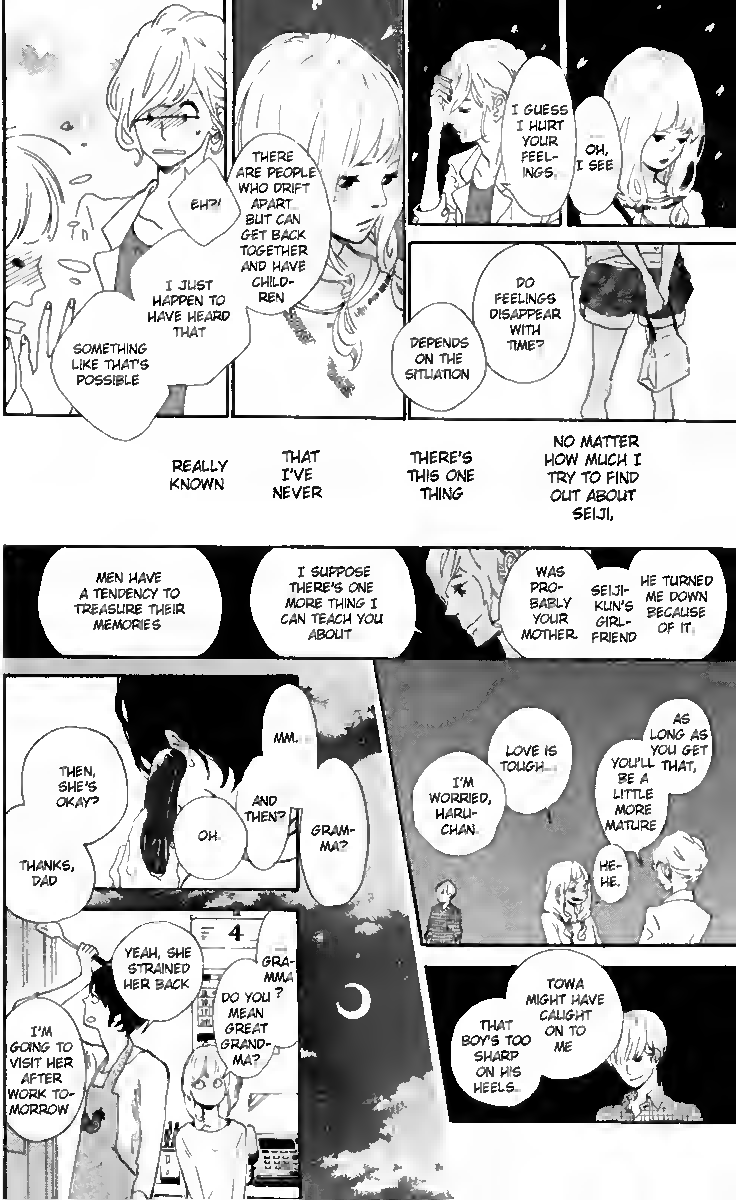
I REALIZED SOMETHING.
I GUESS TOWA LIKES HIS NAME TOO
HE'S A GOOD GUY..
YOU CAN HAVE ONE MORE.
WELL, SINCE I'M IN SUCH GOOD MOOD,
BUT
HARU'S A CUTE NAME
HAVE WE JUST BEEN ADMIRING EACH OTHER BACK AND FORTH?
HAHA HA.
Bluuuush
TOWA'S A NICE NAME TOO

①


SO MANY NICE PEOPLE
GATHER AROUND SEIJI.
THEY SAY THAT CLOVERS BLOOM FROM PROMISES.
"Don't cry, Seiji."

HAAA-RU--CHAN!
YOU LOOK DIFFERENT WITH YOUR HAIR TIED.
I THINK IT'S CUTE
HAVE ANY INTEREST IN MAKE-UP?
USE IT, BUT KEEP IT A SECRET FROM SEIJI-KUN OKAY?
Congrats on Passing!
THANKS.
BUT MEN ARE CLUELESS ANYWAY.
Did you get anything from Seiji-kun?
Yeah!
WOW, AWESOME.
THAT CAMERA MUST BE EXPENSIVE.
NOPE I TOLD HIM ANYTHING WOULD BE FINE,
SO HE GAVE ME SOMETHING HE LIKED.
I SEE
CHIE-SAN
ARE YOU BEING NICE TO ME BECAUSE SEIJI IS SOMEONE SPECIAL TO YOU?
BEFORE
YOU TOLD ME YOU WEREN'T A GOOD PERSON. IS THAT WHAT IT'S ABOUT?
EVEN IF YOU ARE,
I CAN'T PICTURE YOU THAT WAY.

I DUG MY OWN GRAVE
I ACCEPT DEFEAT
AWW, SH-LICKS
IT'S TRUE THAT I USED TO HAVE A THING FOR SEIJI-KUN,
HE HAD A GIRLFRIEND BACK THEN.
BUT THAT WAS IN THE PAST AND HE ALREADY DUMPED ME.
I ALWAYS TRY TO PLEASE EVERY-ONE.
BACK THEN, I WOULD ALWAYS WANT TO LOOK BEAUTIFUL IN FRONT OF THE GUY I LIKED IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE.
BUT I'M HAPPY WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW.
I'M SORRY IF I GAVE YOU THE WRONG IMPRESSION.


EH?!
I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE HEARD THAT
SOMETHING LIKE THAT'S POSSIBLE
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DRIFT APART BUT CAN GET BACK TOGETHER AND HAVE CHILDREN
I GUESS I HURT YOUR FEELINGS.
OH, I SEE
DO FEELINGS DISAPPEAR WITH TIME?
DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION
REALLY KNOWN
THAT I'VE NEVER
THERE'S THIS ONE THING
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY TO FIND OUT ABOUT SEIJI,
MEN HAVE A TENDENCY TO TREASURE THEIR MEMORIES
I SUPPOSE THERE'S ONE MORE THING I CAN TEACH YOU ABOUT
WAS PROBABLY YOUR MOTHER.
SEIJI-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND
HE TURNED ME DOWN BECAUSE OF IT.
I'M WORRIED, HARU-CHAN.
LOVE IS TOUGH...
AS LONG AS YOU GET THAT, YOU'LL BE A LITTLE MORE MATURE
HE-HE.
THEN, SHE'S OKAY?
THANKS, DAD
OH.
AND THEN?
MM.
GRAM-MA?
I'M GOING TO VISIT HER AFTER WORK TOMORROW
YEAH, SHE STRAINED HER BACK
GRA-MMA DO YOU ? MEAN GREAT GRAND-MA?
THAT BOY'S TOO SHARP ON HIS HEELS.
TOWA MIGHT HAVE CAUGHT ON TO ME

SHE'S GOT A LONG LIFE AHEAD OF HER SINCE SHE HASN'T HAD A COLD IN HER LIFE.
BUT SHE'LL THROW A TANTRUM IF I DON'T AT LEAST DROP BY TO SEE HOW SHE'S DOING.
WHEN SUMMER COMES,
I'LL ASK GRAMPA
I'LL TELL HIM TO SAY HELLO TO MAMA IF HE EVER FINDS HER
Cookie
DON'T TELL ME GRAMPA HEARD THAT?
Fidget
Fidget
I WANT MAMA TO LISTEN

TO ALL THE THINGS THAT I KNOW
THAT MAMA DOES NOT KNOW.
"Don't cry, Seiji."

I WANT HER TO HEAR THE STO-RIES
THAT I WILL CON-TINUE TO MAKE AFTER TODAY.

やじろべえ

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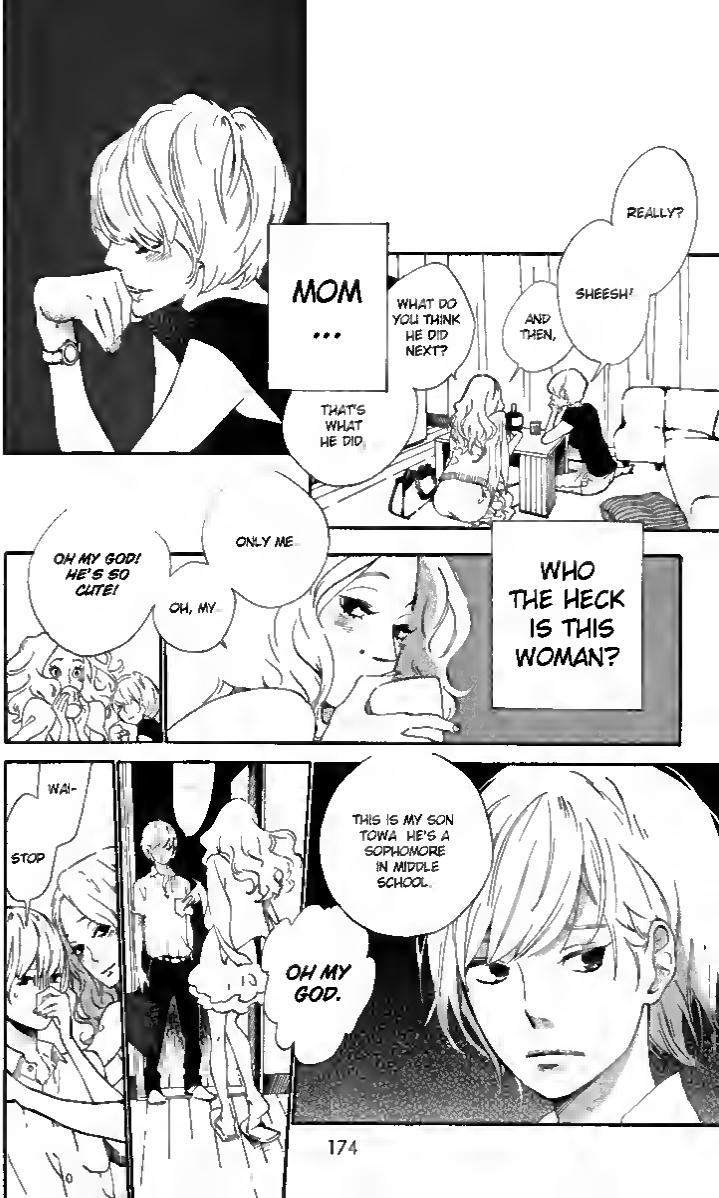
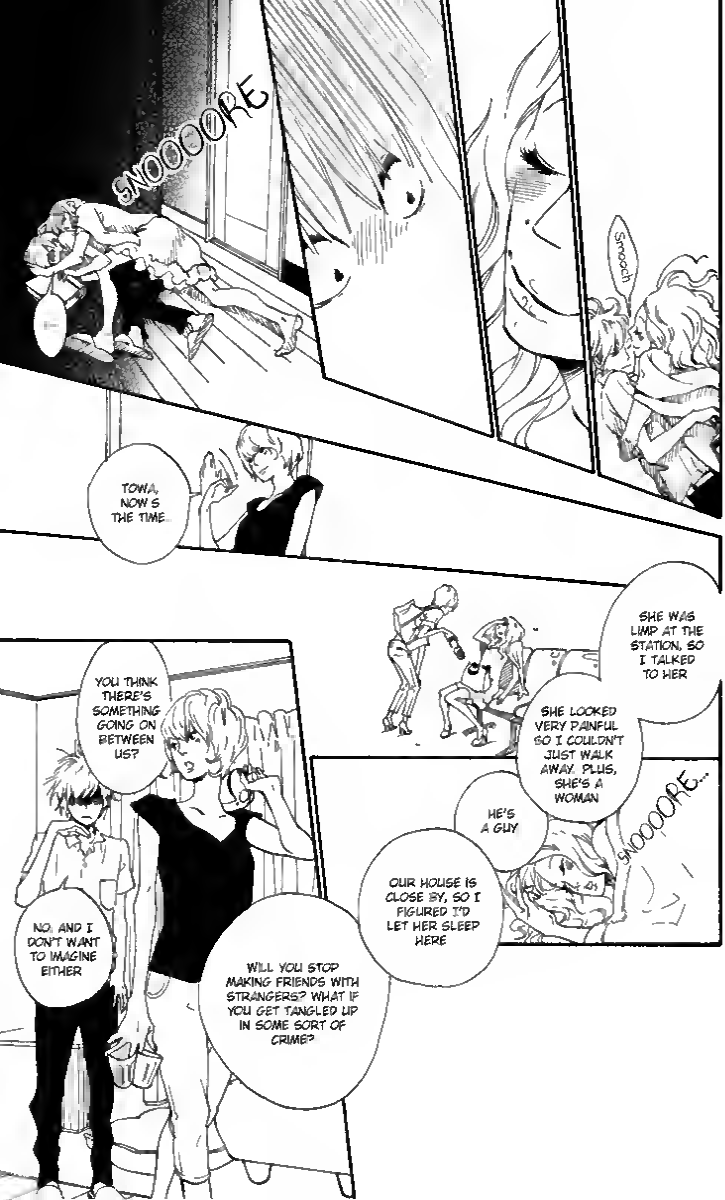

MOM
...
THAT'S WHAT HE DID.
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE DID NEXT?
AND THEN,
SHEESH!
REALLY?
WHO THE HECK IS THIS WOMAN?
OH, MY
ONLY ME.
OH MY GOD! HE'S SO CUTE!
THIS IS MY SON TOWA. HE'S A SOPHOMORE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
OH MY GOD.
WAI-
STOP


SNOOOORE
Smooch
TOWA, NOW'S THE TIME...
SHE WAS LIMP AT THE STATION, SO I TALKED TO HER
SHE LOOKED VERY PAINFUL SO I COULDN'T JUST WALK AWAY. PLUS, SHE'S A WOMAN
HE'S A GUY
SNOOOORE...
OUR HOUSE IS CLOSE BY, SO I FIGURED I'D LET HER SLEEP HERE
WILL YOU STOP MAKING FRIENDS WITH STRANGERS? WHAT IF YOU GET TANGLED UP IN SOME SORT OF CRIME?
YOU THINK THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN US?
NO, AND I DON'T WANT TO IMAGINE EITHER

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE MOM EVER SUSPECTS ANYONE.
SHE WAS FIRED FROM HER JOB
SHE'S THE TYPE WHO LIVES ON INSTINCT AND REFLEX.
I CAN'T SLEEP WITH THAT AROUND
WE CAN SEND HER OFF WHEN IT'S MORNING, RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU SO CHICKEN? AREN'T YOU A MAN?
MANAGE IT YOURSELF!
I DON'T THINK SHE'S UNINTELLI-GENT...
Pinch
BUT SHE CAN BE SURPRIS-INGLY MANLY.

LET'S TRADE PLACES
I'M SO JEAL-OUS
THE SEMPAI CALLED YOU CUTE,
SAME-JIMA.
YAWN
MANAGE IT YOUR-SELF
I MIGHT GET A GIRL HANGING AROUND YOU
HEY
TOWA-KUN
CUTE!

TOWA-KUN, WELCOME HOME
HE'S HERE.
LET'S MAKE A COMPARISON.
I heard you like sweets?
Thanks for yesterday
THIS MAY SOUND WRONG,
BUT IT'S LIKE A ONE-NIGHT STAND THAT NEVER ENDS.
Towa!
Towa!
SHE HAS SO MANY FRIENDS.
Towa-kun
CLICK
TOWA!
MY FRIEND ASKED ME TO WATCH HER KID FOR A DAY
HER NAME'S SACHIKO-CHAN. BE NICE TO HER
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE I'M NOT BUSY.
YOU LOOK LIKE IT.
LET'S GO OUT AND PLAY.
FORGET YOUR FRIEND
IF YOU HAVE A DAY OFF, WHY DON'T YOU THINK ABOUT RELAXING?
THIS RELIEVES MY STRESS
I LOVE PEOPLE

I DON'T GET TO SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH YOU,
SO I THOUGHT WE COULD AT LEAST BE TOGETHER NOW...
LET'S GO, SACHIKO-CHAN WE'LL GO AND HAVE CHOCOLATE PARFAIT... KEEP IT A SECRET FROM TOWA
I CAN HEAR YOU.
YOU SOCIALIZER!
WOOOOW. BALLOONS.
THEY SET UP A FLEA MARKET NEARBY
WANT TO TAKE A PEEK?
Balloons! Balloons!
YOU LIKE THOSE, DON'T YOU?
TAKE SACHIKO WITH YOU.

HUH? I FELL AS-LEEP
JANG JANG
JAJA JANG
MOM
INCOMING CALL
WHAT DOES SHE WANT NOW...?
WHAT?
AH!
TOWA?

SHE'S WITH SOME-ONE
AT THE SECOND PARKING LOT?
YEP, THAT'S RIGHT PLEASE
I'M IN FRONT OF THE TOILET AT THE PARK. BRING IT OVER
?
THERE'S A FIRST AID KIT IN THE BACK-SEAT, RIGHT?
IN THE CHECKERED TOTE?
YEAH, THAT ONE
SHE DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING...
IT'S NOT SOMEBODY I KNOW...
WHO WAS IT?
THE TONE OF VOICE SOUNDED LIKE A SALES-PERSON.
WHAT'S WITH THAT FALSETTO?
ERR
FUUUUUUSH
DON'T TELL ME IT'S A GUY?
THIS ONE'S NEW.

?
WAIT A SEC!
OH
YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE!
ZWSH
I'M NOT INTO THAT KIND OF STUFF
I THINK THIS KIND OF OUTFIT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU.
SOO YEN? HOW ABOUT IT?
I GUESS I SHOULD BE HAPPY WHEN A GIRL CALLS ME CUTE
I'M A GUY.
AH
HUH? YOUR VOICE

THE ONLY PART WHERE I DON'T RESEMBLE MY MOM...
WHOA, SO MANY PEOPLE
IS THAT I'M PRETTY MUCH OKAY WITH BEING ALONE...
BUT NOT BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE...
SEMPAI, HOW'RE YOU DOING?
I HEARD YOUR WIFE GAVE BIRTH, EH?
HUUUUU
Cough
Cough
BUY EVERYTHING HERE FOR ME

I DON'T WANT TO NOT EVEN FOR 100 YEN!
NEVERMIND THAT. I'M SAYIN' YOU GOTTA BUY IT ALL!!
100 YEN EACH, SHIT-FER--BRAINS!
BUT THE BABY WAS JUST BORN!
IT'S AN ORDER FROM YOUR SEMPAI, YOU ASS-HOLE!
EEP! YOU'RE SCARY!
WHAT?
EXTOR-TION?
I'm leaving!!!
What are you talking about? I should be the one demanding money for gas!!
And cough up the dough for the gas for my ride home.
All right I get it. Let's make it 3,000 yen everything together
HUH?
WHY DID THE STORY GET SO DEEP?
THIS WILL SAVE SOME-ONE'S LIFE...
SEMPAI
AND THE OTHER GUY'S EVEN A LITTLE TOUCHED...
WOW. HE DOESN'T EVEN CARE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE WATCHING
IT'S MY FIRST AND LAST RE-QUEST!
PLEASE BUY THEM!
WA!-
PLEASE DON'T KNEEL DOWN

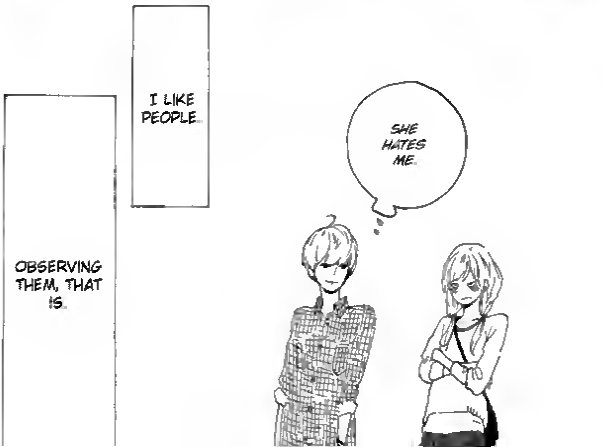
A GOOD EYE FOR PEOPLE, HUH?
I ASKED YOU TO HELP BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'D TAKE CARE OF THESE THINGS
MAYBE IT'S THE WRONG WAY TO ASK,
BUT I HAVE A GOOD EYE FOR PEOPLE
I GET IT.
THAT'S IMPORTANT, HUH?
I UNDERSTAND
THANKS
OH.
THINGS ARE LOOKING PRETTY GOOD.

I BET I'LL HAVE A LOT OF FUN WHEN THERE'S MORE OUT THERE FOR ME TO SEE.
I COULD GROW A LITTLE TALLER ...
NOW IF ONLY ...
TOWA...

ACTUALLY, SACHIKO-CHAN GOT A LITTLE LOST.
WHERE'D SHE GET HURT?
OH, NOT SACHIKO.
UH-HUH
IF IT WAS SOMETHING ORDINARY, SHE WOULDN'T BE THIS FLUSTERED...
I MET A FRIEND FROM COLLEGE
I WAS SCARED...
SORRY, IT WAS MY FAULT...
CRIPES, BE QUIET.
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO NONCHALANT ABOUT IT?
HUH?
OH, BUT WE FOUND HER RIGHT AWAY

HOW STRANGE.
EVEN WHEN I'M ALONE, THERE ARE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE.
IT'S EASY TO BE THE ONE WATCH-ING.
I'LL BE WATCHING.
WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT IT? PLEASE SHOW ME.

WITH THIS AND THAT...
I GET CONNECTED...
WHAT A SMALL WORLD
OR IS IT JUST AROUND ME?
SHE TRIPS OVER A LOT
HEY
TOWA.
YOU'RE LATE


I LIKE PEOPLE.
OBSERVING THEM, THAT IS.
SHE HATES ME.